

Amnesty appeals to U.S. states

LONDON (R) — Amnesty International on Sunday appealed to U.S. state authorities to review 12 prisoners condemned to death and said the number of executions in the United States could double this year. The London-based human rights group said up to 40 inmates could be gassed, electrocuted or poisoned by lethal injection in the United States this year compared with 18 last year, following a 1987 Supreme Court ruling in April that Georgia's death penalty was not unconstitutional. The court ruled that the state's law was not biased even though it accepted that blacks convicted of killing whites were more likely to be sentenced to death than whites convicted of killing blacks. Most executions had been stayed pending the outcome of the court ruling on whether the death penalty was racially biased. Most of 12 prisoners scheduled to die in Texas and Louisiana had execution dates set following the ruling. A further dozen, who have exhausted all legal avenues will have their dates set soon, Amnesty said. Amnesty International said in a statement it had appealed to the governors of Louisiana and Texas to commute the penalties and asked them to investigate racial discrimination in their use of the death penalty.



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King sends good wishes to Tunisia

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a cable of good wishes Sunday to Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba congratulating him on the occasion of his country's Victory Day. In his cable, the King wished President Bourguiba continuing good health and happiness and the Tunisian people further progress and prosperity.

Bridges to close

AMMAN (Petra) — The King Hussein and Prince Mohammad bridges across the Jordan River will be closed from 10 in the morning on Tuesday and re-open on Thursday June 4, according to a statement by the Public Security Department (PSD). The statement said that only 300 travellers would be allowed to cross the King Hussein Bridge on Tuesday and 200 others to cross the Prince Mohammad Bridge and asked travellers in general to refrain from crossing on that day unless they are urgently required to do so. No reason was given for the closure.

Decree approves Uruguay consul

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree has been issued approving the appointment of Mr. Barke Mousa Shihjan as honorary consul for Uruguay to Jordan. Mr. Shihjan is a leading businessman in Jordan.

Bakhtiar: 3 hostages moved to Iran

BEIRUT (A.P.) — Shahpur Bakhtiar, Iran's exiled former prime minister, said in an interview published Sunday that three foreign hostages kidnapped in Lebanon have been smuggled to Iran. "They are now held in Tehran," Mr. Bakhtiar said in a five-page interview with the independent Beirut weekly magazine Ousouba Al Arabi. He cited no source for his information, nor did he identify any of the three hostages by name or nationality. Mr. Bakhtiar made the remark in the course of assessing the U.S. and French governments' handling of the hostage issue.

Iran says Sardasht mullah murdered

LONDON (R) — The mullah of the town of Sardasht near the Iraqi border in northeast Iran has been murdered by "anti-revolutionary elements," Tehran Radio reported Sunday. The broadcast, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), implied that the opposition Mujaheddin-e-Khalq organisation based in Baghdad might have been responsible.

Sharra winds up talks in Belgrade

BELGRADE (R) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharra and his Yugoslav counterpart Radul Dizdarevic wound up their talks on international issues and bilateral economic ties in Belgrade on Sunday. Their three rounds of talks, since Mr. Sharra arrived Saturday on an official visit, centred on the agenda of a Mediterranean non-aligned ministers conference opening on the Yugoslav island on Tuesday, Tamping news agency said.

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Resistance fighters hit Israelis and SLA in major attack

Five militiamen killed and 14 Israeli soldiers wounded in raid on 'security zone'

Combined agency dispatches

SIDON, Lebanon — About 250 resistance fighters on Sunday staged what a Lebanese resistance movement described as its biggest attack on Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon.

The fighters destroyed a radar station, set 20 military vehicles on fire and inflicted "large losses" on the Israeli-sponsored South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia and Israeli troops, according to communiques issued by Islamic Resistance, a Lebanese group made up mostly of pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) militiamen.

In Tel Aviv, the Israeli army said five SLA men and eight commandos were killed in the clash. Twenty militiamen were wounded in the early morning clash near the village of Jezzeine and eight Israeli soldiers were wounded inside the "security zone," an army spokesman said. The Israeli soldiers were wounded when commandos fired

mortar shells at them, the spokesman said.

The resistance fighters charged up rocky hillsides towards positions held by SLA men and Israeli troops and "pured two positions," an Islamic Resistance communique said.

It said three fighters were killed and four were injured in the clash. The Israeli spokesman said in Tel Aviv that at about 0500 a.m., fighters from the Hizbollah movement attacked three SLA outposts near Jezzeine, the spokesman said.

Five militiamen were killed and twenty wounded in the attack, the spokesman said. The army spokesman said that in searches carried out after the

fighting, the bodies of eight commandos were found. Weapons and "other military equipment" were discovered alongside the bodies, he said.

At 0930 a.m., three Katyusha rockets were fired at the village of Marjayoun which houses the SLA headquarters, the spokesman said. No injuries were reported in the attack, he said.

Israeli army radio said Israeli helicopter gunships flew Sunday morning over "large areas" in South Lebanon.

Lebanese police said Israeli helicopters and artillery shelled and strafed nearby villages for 10 hours after the attack, killing a six-month-old baby in Nabatiyeh and wounding 20 civilians.

Islamic resistance said it captured an SLA militiaman and an armoured troop carrier used by Israeli intelligence. Shellfire prevented reporters reaching the village where the prisoner and the troop carrier were said to be held.

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Frontline Lebanese villagers defy Israel, page 2

Iraq reports 6,000 Iranians killed in north

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said Sunday, more than 6,000 Iranians had been killed and 20,000 wounded since Iran launched a cross-border offensive on the northern sector of the Gulf war front in mid-April.

A military spokesman told the Iraqi News Agency (INA) the Iraqis had also lost huge quantities of military equipment, along with a jet fighter and two helicopter gunships.

The spokesman described the Iranian offensive as a complete failure, saying Iraqi troops emerged victorious in all the battles on the northern front.

Baghdad has said little about the fighting in the north. Its war communiques dismissed Tehran reports that Iranian forces had occupied 300 square kilometres of Iraqi territory and inflicted 4,000 casualties on the Iraqis.

Baghdad-based reporters who visited the northern front were told by Iraqi commanders that their troops were in control of the border area.

Israeli troops storm Balata and arrest 60 Palestinians

Occupation forces expel Gazan to East Bank and order deportation of Balata resident

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers on Sunday stormed the Balata refugee camp near Nablus in the occupied West Bank and arrested more than 60 people, reports said.

An Israeli army spokesman confirmed the reports and said between 1,500 to 2,000 people from the camp were rounded up and questioned in the yard of the United Nations Works and Relief Agency (UNRWA) school. Other reports said those rounded up included all male residents of the camp above 12 years.

Another army spokesman said women and children of the camp threw stones at the Israeli soldiers and Israeli Radio said the troops used tear-gas to disperse protesters.

The Balata camp, which has a population of about 14,000 Palestinians, was sealed off Sunday. According to Israeli army radio, the occupation authorities have traced about 10 per cent of the attacks on Israeli vehicles in the West Bank in the last six

months to Balata. The camp is close to the Jewish settlement of Elon Moreh, where an Israeli boy was abducted and killed 10 days ago. Settlers, claiming Palestinians were responsible for the killing, have been demanding "revenge" action against Arabs.

Balata had been under curfew for an average of two days per month over the past year.

Observers said the storming of the camp and the subsequent arrests could be aimed at stemming possible Palestinian demonstrations on Friday, the 20th anniversary of the outbreak of the 1967 war when the Israelis occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, the occupation authorities on Sunday expelled to the East Bank a 36-year-old Palestinian accusing him of heading a guerrilla youth movement in the Gaza Strip. The expulsion of Ahmad Abdul Fatah Nasser was the fourth by Israel this year. The Israeli army, which issued the expulsion order, said Mr. Nasser had decided not to appeal to a military tribunal or Israel's supreme court. Both have rejected previous similar challenges.

The army also ordered the expulsion of a Palestinian whom it accused of heading the guerrilla youth movement in the Balata camp. Reuter identified the man as Abdullah Mohammad Musseini, 28, but AP named the man as Jihad Misaymi, 36, and said his brother Riyadh was ordered held for six months under "administrative detention," a measure that allows imprisonment without trial. Jihad Misaymi was accused of inciting demonstrations against Israeli troops in the West Bank, AP said.

An army announcement said Jihad Misaymi was head of Shabiba, a youth movement linked to Fateh. He was sentenced in 1979 to 15 years for allegedly planting a bomb in Nablus and preparing explosive devices for use against Israeli targets.

He was released in May 1985 as part of a prisoner exchange in which three Israeli soldiers were freed in return for 1,150 mostly Palestinian prisoners held by Israel.

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French foreign minister begins visit to Israel

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond arrived in Israel Sunday and said he hoped his three-day visit would help spur efforts towards peace in the Middle East.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who greeted Mr. Raimond at the airport, said: "The subject of the Middle East peace will feature high in our talks here."

"We are seeking a way to peace and a way to overcome the obstacles and difficulties that lie in its path. With your great experience, we hope our talks here will be constructive," said Mr. Peres, who has campaigned for Israel's participation in an international conference.

Mr. Raimond, whose government supports an international conference, responded, saying: "We are seeking a way to make our contribution to peace and hope to bring about negotiations, so my visit here is also a visit of hope."

During the visit, Mr. Raimond will also meet with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the leader of the coalition government whose opposition blocked Israeli participation in a conference.

Israeli officials have said Mr. Raimond's visit will provide Israeli leaders with the first opportunity to be briefed on Prime Minister Jacques Chirac's trip to Moscow earlier this month. Mr. Raimond, formerly ambassador to Moscow, accompanied Mr. Chirac on the trip.

Mr. Peres has said Israel refused to consider Soviet participation in a proposed international conference unless Moscow restores diplomatic ties broken after the 1967 war and lifts restrictions on Soviet Jewish emigration.

Mr. Raimond will hold working talks with Mr. Peres on Monday and meet President Chaim Herzog and parliamentary leaders.

On Tuesday, he will see Mr. Shamir, meet with Palestinian leaders from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, and hold a news conference before departing.

France supports Mr. Peres' drive for an international peace conference on the Middle East, although it is not clear that Paris would be content with the largely ceremonial role he foresees for the five U.N. Security Council powers.

Peres hopes to break up coalition as soon as possible

LONDON (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Sunday he wanted to break up the country's "national unity" government and hold an early election as soon as possible.

Interviewed on British commercial television, Mr. Peres said he hoped it would be possible to muster a parliamentary majority in favour of elections within a few months.

His aim was to form a new government ready to negotiate peace with the Arabs in an international Middle East conference. "I hope that we shall be able to

mobilise a majority and have an early election," Mr. Peres said.

Israel's government was created in October 1984 after neither Mr. Peres' Labour Party nor the right-wing Likud emerged from a general election with enough support to form a government without the other.

Mr. Peres served as prime minister for two years before switching jobs with hardline Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir. The two are bitterly divided over Mr. Peres' wish for Israel to enter an international peace conference.

Labour-Likud feud blocks new ambassador to U.S.

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's ambassador to the United States, Meir Rosenne, ended his term Sunday with his country's leaders unable to agree on a successor at a time of strained relations over the Pollard espionage affair.

The deadlock over Israel's most important diplomatic post symbolised the growing paralysis of the "national unity" government, torn by feuding between Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud bloc and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' Labour Party.

Under a 1984 coalition agreement, Mr. Shamir is supposed to approve a candidate nominated by Mr. Peres for the assignment. He has so far vetoed several names, all linked to Labour.

Political commentators have criticised the way in which the key job has been made hostage to other coalition negotiations at a difficult moment in U.S.-Israeli relations following the dispute

over Israeli espionage in Washington.

U.S. diplomats have also expressed private dismay at the Israeli horse-trading over the Washington post.

U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering said on Friday Washington was still waiting for Israel to take appropriate action against those involved in recruiting U.S. navy intelligence analyst Jonathan Pollard to spy for Israel in the Pentagon.

Pollard, 32, was sentenced to life imprisonment in March. Two Israeli inquiries concluded last week that government leaders were unaware of his spying, but bore responsibility for failing to control its espionage services.

"Israel can ill afford to be without an ambassador in Washington in these trying times, but to serve two rival masters

(Continued on page 3)

Britain's Labour resumes cutting Conservatives' lead

LONDON (Agencies) — Britain's opposition Labour Party is again cutting Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's lead as the June 11 general election campaign enters its last full week.

Four new opinion polls suggested on Sunday that Labour leader Neil Kinnock had weathered an onslaught on his non-nuclear defence policy and still had a chance to spring an electoral surprise.

The Conservative prime minister had fiercely attacked Labour's plans to scrap British nuclear weapons and close American nuclear bases. She accused Mr. Kinnock of inviting a Soviet attack and hoisting a white flag over the nation.

Labour's support briefly buckled under the barrage, but Sunday's polls, taken last Wednesday and Thursday when the row was at its height, suggested the opposition party had resumed its

upward march.

A Harris poll in the Observer said Labour had cut Mrs. Thatcher's lead to only four percentage points, the narrowest margin of any sample since the election campaign began.

The three other polls suggested Mrs. Thatcher was still between seven and 12 points ahead, with the opposition making up ground, albeit slowly.

The centrist alliance of Liberals and Social Democrats appeared to be virtually out of the reckoning.

"Kinnock is probably through the worst of defence," wrote Andrew Neil, editor of the pro-Thatcher Sunday Times.

The issue of Northern Ireland entered the election campaign Saturday when the government's Ulster secretary accused Labour of having "two faces" on its approach to the Irish Republican Army (IRA).

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U.S. senators tour Omani defence sites, overfly Strait of Hormuz

MUSCAT, Oman (Agencies) — U.S. Senators John Glenn and John Warner overflew the strategic Strait of Hormuz in an Omani Air Force helicopter Sunday, the second day of a visit to the sultanate aimed at discussing ways to safeguard navigation in the troubled Gulf.

U.S. diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Sen. Glenn, a Democrat from Ohio, and Sen. Warner, a Republican from Virginia, were flown 320 kilometres in a C-130 to the Musandam peninsula, where they boarded the helicopter that overflew Hormuz.

Oman shares control of the strategic Strait of Hormuz with Iran. More than 60 per cent of the world's oil export travel through the channel, the only outlet to the Gulf.

Iran, which has been at war with Iraq since September 1980, has accused Gulf Arab states of aiding Iraq's war effort. It often attacks commercial ships trading with these countries as they sail through Hormuz.

In recent weeks, Iran deployed Chinese-made anti-ship Silkworm

missiles on its side of the water channel.

An aide to Sen. Glenn told the Associated Press the United States viewed the deployment of the Silkworms as a "potential threat" to Gulf shipping.

The senators were assigned by Senate majority leader Robert Byrd to tour the Gulf after the on May 17 Iraqi attack on the USS Stark in which 37 American sailors were killed.

They are seeking broader military cooperation between the United States and Gulf Arab states to safeguard the oil flow from the region and secure free navigation in the Gulf.

Sen. Glenn and Sen. Warner flew in from Bahrain Saturday. Their tour also was expected to include Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iraq.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman are members of the 5-year-old Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), an economic and security alliance formed in the wake of the Iran-Iraq war.

Its main target was to defend the Gulf from foreign intervention and prevent the hostilities from spreading beyond the borders of Iran and Iraq.

All six countries are allies of the United States.

The senators met Saturday with the Omani Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Hamed bin Saad Al Auli and other ranking Defence Ministry officials at the Al Murtafa military camp in Muscat.

They also met with Minister of State Yousef bin Alawi, who recently visited Tehran and discussed the Gulf situation with Iranian officials.

Sen. Glenn's aide, who refused to be identified, said the senators' discussions were "extremely useful and very frank concerning the situation in the Gulf and the role of Oman in the GCC."

"It was of considerable interest

and very useful to get the opinion of someone who was in Iran... this will go into the overall situation (report)," he said.

"We are soliciting comments on how individual (Gulf) countries see the situation and what can be done if and when the escort (of Kuwaiti ships by U.S. warships) start," he said.

Kuwait is registering 11 of its state-owned tankers under the American flag to guard against Iranian attacks. Vessels flying the American flag are entitled to warship escorts in the Gulf. The plan is expected to be completed within the next few weeks.

Since 1980, the United States has had limited military facilities in Oman.

Oman has a defence agreement with the United States under which U.S. forces may use Omani bases in time of emergency.

President Ronald Reagan's plans to boost U.S. involvement in the region have come under attack by congressmen who fear the United States could get drawn in the Iran-Iraq war, now in its seventh year.

Iran to discuss charges against diplomat with U.K.

LONDON (R) — Iran will this week discuss with Britain charges against a British diplomat abducted for 24 hours in Tehran, Iran's charge d'affaires in London said Sunday.

Speaking on television, Akhondzadeh Basti refused to specify charges against Edward Chaplin, London's second most senior diplomat in Tehran, who Britain says was beaten up and kidnapped by Iranian Revolutionary Guards on Thursday and held overnight.

"Of course there are certain charges against the British diplomat in Tehran and we will discuss the charges with the government here in the next few days," Mr. Basti said in an interview shown on independent television.

Asked whether Mr. Chaplin would face prosecution, he said: "If they are to follow the procedure, naturally he has got to face that."

Britain has called the abduction a horrific incident and has demanded an explanation. But the Foreign Office has denied a newspaper report it is considering cutting diplomatic ties with Tehran.

The latest dispute in the troubled relations between the two countries also involves the case of Ahmad Ghassemi, an Iranian consular official detained by British police on shoplifting charges in Manchester, north-west England.

Mr. Akhondzadeh Basti said he did not want to establish a link between the two cases and there was no question of settling them in a deal.

The Sunday Times said an Iranian source had hinted that Tehran might break off diplomatic relations with Britain.

"We are not Saudi Arabia or Syria. We are Iran," the Sunday Times quoted the source as saying.

Commenting on the Sunday Times report, the Foreign Office said: "There has been no hint in our direction, in conversations in either London or Tehran, of any such plans."

British diplomats in Iran have operated under the protection of Swedish flag since Britain closed its embassy in Tehran in 1980 following the U.S. embassy siege.

The head of British interests section of the Swedish embassy, Christopher MacRae, met Iranian Foreign Ministry officials Saturday and demanded an explanation of Chaplin's kidnapping and an apology.

The Iranian official news agency (IRNA) also reported the meeting but said Mr. MacRae had been summoned by the Tehran Foreign Ministry to give an explanation of the Ghassemi case.

Israeli cabinet decides on judicial probe into Shin Bet torture case

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's cabinet voted on Sunday to hold a judicial inquiry into interrogation methods used by the Shin Bet security service, which has been accused of fabricating evidence and torturing prisoners.

Sixteen cabinet ministers voted to open the inquiry, which would be empowered to subpoena witnesses and documents, Israel Radio reported. Six ministers abstained from the vote.

The cabinet decision followed a string of scandals involving interrogation methods of the nation's internal security service.

In the latest scandal, the supreme court last week freed a Muslim army officer from prison after finding that Shin Bet agents had forced him to make a false confession to charges of treason

and espionage, then lied in court about the case.

The ruling in the case of Lt. Izat Nafso, 32, a member of the Circassian Muslim minority, came after the officer had already served seven and a half years of an 18-year sentence.

"The government has decided that the issue of the interrogation methods of the general security services in the wake of the Nafso case is a subject of crucial public importance at this time and demands an inquiry," said Cabinet Secretary Elyakim Rubinstein after the cabinet vote.

"The commission... will make recommendations as to the proper methods of interrogation in the future, taking into account the special needs of the fight against

terror," said Rubinstein, reading from a prepared statement.

He said that according to a special law on commissions of inquiry, the Shin Bet probe would be appointed by Supreme Court President Meir Shamgar.

Rubinstein also said the commission's deliberations would be secret.

Tel Aviv lawyer Avigdor Klagsbald said that although a judicial inquiry would be conducted "like a court of law," the government is not obliged to accept its conclusions.

"A commission of inquiry will lead to recommendations for action, but the government decides what to do," Klagsbald, an expert on commissions of inquiry, told the Associated Press.

Frontline S. Lebanese villagers defy Israel

By Diana Abdallah

Reuter

FROUN, Lebanon — Children play, women water the rose bushes and laundry flaps from the balconies by day. But as dusk falls, the South Lebanese village of Froun turns into a ghost town.

Most nights the boom of artillery shelling or bursts of machinegun fire echo around the rugged hills. Even in daytime, cars race along exposed roads for fear of hostile fire.

"We huddle in the corners of the house. My children hold on to me and ask, when are the Israelis leaving?" said vegetable seller Fatma Ramadan, 26, and the mother of five.

Froun's villagers said all the inhabitants take to their small stone houses and rarely venture out after nightfall when the sporadic shelling usually starts.

"We spend our nights at home. If we are not huddled in the corners of our houses because of the shelling we listen to the radios and watch television," said Alya Omeish, 22, who works at Froun's sewing factory.

"When it's quiet, the old people go to sleep early and we just sit there listening to the complete silence outside," she added.

Shelling and shooting near villages like Froun along the Israeli front line in South Lebanon has killed at least 100 civilians since mid-1985, security sources say.

But despite the difficulty of tending olive trees, wheat and tobacco in "narrow valleys between the Shi'ite Muslim villages and the Israeli front line, few people have left and the mood is resigned and defiant.

"Whoever starts running away will have to keep running all the time. We don't know when this will end. It might take years," said Froun Mukhtar (headman) Kamal Jaafar, whose living room window faces hostile bunkers on the ridge opposite.

"Life has become very difficult. But where can we go? We live from our land and we have to stay near it," he said.

The near-daily gunfire is part of what Lebanese opposition leaders call mounting tension between Israeli forces and Lebanese

and Palestinian commandos in South Lebanon.

The front line is the edge of Israel's self-declared "security zone," set up in mid-1985 to absorb commando attacks. This is a belt along Israel's northern border an average 10 kilometres deep and a zigzagging 120 kilometres long.

Commandos based in Lebanon report two attacks a day on Israeli or pro-Israeli militia outposts. Israel regularly reacts with reprisals against the villages or by sending warplanes against Palestinian camps.

This mostly happens after Israel suffers casualties — at least 17 Israelis and 110 Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen have been killed since mid-1985. Security sources say about 100 commandos died in the same period.

An Israeli reprisal was reported recently in Arnoun, just inside the zone near Froun and about 60 kilometres south of Beirut. A day earlier, four Israeli soldiers on patrol nearby had been injured by a roadside bomb.

Arnoun Mayor Rida Marouni told police that Israeli bulldozers demolished several houses. An Israeli armoured car then toured the village telling residents to leave within 72 hours and that their homes would be razed, he said.

Shi'ite Amal militia leader Nabih Berri — also a cabinet minister with responsibility for South Lebanon — accused Israel of wanting to create a "burnt strip" in the 30 villages that lie along the front line.

He urged Arnoun residents to stay out. People at Froun and others of the 40,000 people in frontline villages said shelling or raids would not force them to leave.

"We would rather die in our homes," said Nabih Merh of nearby Ghadourieh.

Israel has dropped leaflets over South Lebanon warning of reprisals in return for attacks — and posing a dilemma for the villagers.

The dominant Amal militia says attacks should be made only within the zone because of reprisals. But the villages display banners

and posters of pro-Iran Hizbollah (Party of God), which launches mass assaults across the line.

A grocer in Froun said: "We know that with every attack the village will be destroyed. If it was up to us, we would not let them launch attacks."

But most people say they approve the guerrilla actions. "Even if the attacks stop, the shelling will continue. We are ready to pay with our own lives to help the resistance fighters," said Fatima Mikdad, 28, to the approving nods of a dozen women workers at a sewing factory in Froun.

In nearby Tulun, a 70-year-old farmer in a small concrete house said he and his family helped shelter guerrillas on their way to the front line a short walk away.

"If we don't sacrifice our children and grandchildren in the fight against the Israelis, they will never leave. If some of us die and Israel leaves it is better than this daily slow death," he said.

The farmer said he had not been able to plough his land or take his cows to graze in a valley in front of Israeli and SLA positions for months because of hostile fire, especially from patrolling helicopter gunships.

"If they see a fly flying, they open fire," he said.

Jaafar, the Froun mukhtar, said villagers would risk their lives to go to the fields or to fetch water from the nearby Litani River. He pointed sadly at his own bullet-riddled water tanker, the casualty of one such trip a few months ago.

Soldiers from the 5,800-man U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) have posts in about half the frontline villages, but Jaafar said that even when UNIFIL troops accompanied farmers, they were shot at.

"They never respect UNIFIL. Anyone who is good to us is hated by the Israelis," Jaafar said.

Hayne Hamdoun, 28, looked at Israeli and SLA positions in the hills facing her shrapnel-pocked house.

"As long as Israel is there, we will continue to live in misery," she said.

Velayati discusses Gulf developments in UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati delivered a message Sunday on the latest Gulf developments to the president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan Al Nahayan.

Mr. Velayati arrived in the UAE Saturday night at the start of a three-nation Gulf tour as the U.S. administration in Washington pledged to keep open Gulf sealanes and protect Kuwaiti tankers from attack.

Iran has recently increased its strikes against shipping connected with Kuwait in retaliation for the northern Gulf emirate's support for Iraq in Baghdad's war with Tehran.

Diplomats said Mr. Velayati handed a written message to Sheikh Zaid from Iranian President Ali Khamenei on developments in the region.

They said he was due to go on to Qatar and Bahrain, although a senior Foreign Ministry official travelling with him might visit the latter state in his place.

Before leaving Tehran, Mr. Velayati was reported by the Iranian News Agency IRNA as saying it was necessary to exchange views with neighbouring countries.

The interference of certain foreign powers in the region recently "is in no way in the interests of the regional countries," he added.

U.S.-Iran conflict seen looming in Gulf

By Christopher Hanson

Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's decision to protect 11 Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Gulf could embroil America in a conflict with Iran, U.S. defence experts say.

They say such clashes could make the apparently accidental missile attack on the frigate Stark, in which 37 crewmen were killed, seem tame by comparison.

Under the U.S.-Kuwait pact — which U.S. officials say may not be implemented until mid-summer — the 11 tankers will fly U.S. flags, be commanded by U.S. captains and protected by a U.S. fleet of at least five warships.

Kuwait is a key tanker and arms supplier of Iraq, which is locked in a bitter nearly seven-year-old war with Iran.

The two sides have been attacking each other's shipping, and of 30 commercial ships hit by Iran since September, 25 were Kuwaiti, naval analysts said.

"If we rent the Stars and Stripes to the 11 Kuwaiti ships, it's certain Iran will have a go at them and certain U.S. forces will be engaged with the Iranians," said retired Admiral Eugene Carroll, deputy director of the private Centre for Defence Information.

He predicted heavy casualties. Retired Admirals Elmo Zumwalt, former chief of naval operations, and Stansfield Turner, former U.S. Central Intelligence Agency director, said the plan was likely to spark an Iranian military response, forcing a large U.S. buildup in the area.

Key congressmen such as Democratic Senator John Glenn, a former astronaut and fighter pilot, made similar predictions. And some analysts fear a U.S.

confrontation with the Soviet Union, which borders Iran, may result.

Mr. Reagan has vowed the navy will shoot back if U.S. ships are attacked and told reporters the Iranians should "go to bed every night wondering what we might do."

This is almost identical to a comment he made about Libya in 1986 after the United States bombed it.

In a tough statement Friday, Mr. Reagan said: "Mark this point well — the use of the vital sea lanes of the Gulf will not be dictated by the Iranians. These lanes will not be allowed to come under the control of the Soviet Union."

Washington insists it remains neutral in the war, only wants to protect freedom of navigation and hopes the Kuwaiti tanker scheme will deter Iran from attacks.

But critics are highly sceptical of the neutrality claim.

They say Iran, which so far has refrained from strikes on U.S. vessels despite hostility to the United States, now has reason to view America as a belligerent and hit U.S. ships.

"We are taking sides now," Sen. Glenn told reporters before leaving for an inspection trip to the Gulf. "We're coming down on the Iraqi side (and) this is no bluff anymore."

Western diplomats say Washington has a strong stake in keeping Iran from winning the war and spreading its virulently anti-American brand of Islamic fundamentalism through the strategic Middle East.

The industrial world depends for most of its oil on the Arab

states in the Gulf.

Despite America's military might, its ships could be very vulnerable to Iranian attacks in the confined waters of the Gulf, which Adm. Carroll described as "a tough naval theatre, my idea of the worst place in the world to blunder in."

Iranian weapons include air-launched cruise missiles and the deadly land-based Silkworm anti-ship missile with a range of some 96 kilometres, naval analysts said.

Air cover is vital to defend against such weapons, said naval expert William Lind of the Military Reform Institute. But analysts doubt adequate air cover could be provided.

Truly dominating the air would require basing U.S. jets in Kuwait or Saudi Arabia. Diplomats said it was unlikely either country would allow this for fear of Iranian retaliation.

An alternative is to rely on jets from aircraft carriers.

But naval analysts said carriers could not risk entering the narrow Gulf and would have to operate in the Arabian Sea. That is some 800 to 1,200 kilometres from areas that need protection in the northern Gulf and at the limit of the range of U.S. jets.

It would be difficult to maintain continuous air patrol, even if the carrier Constellation, now on patrol in the area, were joined by others, Ronald O'Rourke, senior naval analyst of the Congressional Research Service, told Reuters.

Without control of the skies, a fleet of some 30 ships with advanced radar and the most sophisticated long-range defensive missiles would be needed, Adm. Carroll said.

This is the way World War III could start," he said.

NEWS ANALYSIS

But critics are highly sceptical of the neutrality claim.

They say Iran, which so far has refrained from strikes on U.S. vessels despite hostility to the United States, now has reason to view America as a belligerent and hit U.S. ships.

"We are taking sides now," Sen. Glenn told reporters before leaving for an inspection trip to the Gulf. "We're coming down on the Iraqi side (and) this is no bluff anymore."

Western diplomats say Washington has a strong stake in keeping Iran from winning the war and spreading its virulently anti-American brand of Islamic fundamentalism through the strategic Middle East.

The industrial world depends for most of its oil on the Arab

TV & RADIO

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PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran

15:50 Programme Review

15:55 Cartoons and children's programme

16:40 Children's scientific programme

17:05 World of Strange Powers

17:40 Arabic Series

18:30 Local debate

19:00 A special programme on Tunisia

19:20 Local programme

19:45 Programme Review

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Message from Oman

20:40 Arabic Series

21:25 Cultural panel discussion

21:55 Tomorrow's Programmes

22:00 Arab Scholars

22:30 News Summary in Arabic

23:10 Close down

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Marie Perle (new French comedy)

19:00 News in French

19:15 Sport magazine (French)

19:30 News in Hebrew

19:45 Magazine Zero One

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Three Up, Two Down

21:00 Unlighting

21:30 News in English

22:00 Fair share the world for France

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07:00 Light Music

07:30 News

08:00 Morning Show

09:00 News Summary

10:05 Just a Minute

11:00 Follow the Wind

12:00 News Summary

12:05 30-Minute Theatre

13:00 News Summary

13:05 Pup Session Continues

14:00 News Bulletin

14:30 Just a Minute

15:00 Concert Hour

16:00 News Summary

16:05 Instrumentals

16:30 Old Favorites

17:00 Men from the Ministry

17:30 Pop Session

18:00 News Summary

18:05 Sports Roundup

18:30 News Bulletin

19:00 News Deck

19:30 Date with a Star

20:00 Evening Show

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

FEATURE FILM

"A Chorus Line" at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.

VIDEO

"Marguerite Duras" at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 610267

American Cultural Centre .. 611520

British Council .. 6361478

French Cultural Centre .. 637019

Goethe Institute .. 641093

Extended social security coverage begins today

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Cabinet decision taken last month to expand coverage of the Social Security Corporation (SSC) law to include other groups in society will be explained at a press conference to be held today by SSC Director General Mahdi Farhan.

Dr. Farhan will give details on the new extended coverages expected to benefit employees of many private businesses and companies and private individuals.

On April 25, the government said that as of June 1, 1987, all companies and private businesses employing five persons or more are to be included in the SSC law. Earlier, only those companies and businesses employing 10 persons or more were able to join the SSC.

The Cabinet statement said all

Jordanian nationals working for regional or international diplomatic or military missions in Jordan or those employed by educational institutions and technical centres affiliated with these institutions are to join the SSC.

Institutions that employ less than five persons can join the SSC provided that once they join, they cannot withdraw, according to the Cabinet decision. The Cabinet statement said all Jordanians could optionally be covered by the SSC law, providing benefits for old age, death or disability, in accordance with regulations to be issued by the SSC.

At his press conference today, Dr. Farhan is expected to dwell on the subject at length. The SSC law came into force in Jordan in 1980.

Rifal leaves for Greece

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifal today flies to Athens on an official visit to Greece at the invitation of Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu.

Mr. Rifal, who will be accompanied on the three-day visit by an eight-member delegation, is expected to hold talks with the

Greek prime minister on topics of mutual concern to Jordan and Greece.

Mr. Rifal's visit to Greece will be in reply to a visit to Jordan by Mr. Papandreu in November 1984, during which he concluded an agreement on increasing bilateral cooperation.

Amman to take part in Berlin anniversary gala

AMMAN (Petra) — The Greater Amman Municipality will take part in celebrations which will start in East Berlin Monday to mark the city's 750th anniversary.

Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al-Rawabdeh left Amman for East Berlin Sunday at the head of a delegation to attend these celebrations and to take part in discussions on Berlin's links of cooperation with the other capitals of the world.

Mr. Rawabdeh is accompanied by Mr. Hani Al-Haj Hassan who is a member of the municipality's committee and Hussein Fawadi, director of the municipality's public relations department.

During the celebrations, a week-long exhibition will be held featuring the culture and history of Berlin and other world capitals. Amman Municipality is displaying photographs depicting a variety of archaeological and tourist sites in the Amman region and other parts of the Kingdom.

The Jordanian pavilion is also presenting a documentary film featuring the historical background of Amman, its development over the years, and its public services. Also on display is a collection of books and pamphlets outlining Jordan's and Amman's history.

Resistance fighters stage attack

(Continued from page 1)

A second Israeli intelligence troops carrier was destroyed with five other Israeli vehicles and an Israeli piloted bombing drone was shot down in the area.

Dozens of families fled villages near the conflict in days with their hastily packed belongings, witnesses told Reuters.

The SLA, a 2,000-strong predominantly Christian militia, said it suffered eight killed and 11 wounded in the attack on its positions at Basilia and Mount Safi.

The SLA communique broadcast by the militia's radio station also said six Israeli soldiers were wounded and taken by ambulance for treatment in Israel.

Taking into account only the deaths admitted by the various sides and the police report on the shelling of Nabatiyeh, the day's violence claimed 12 lives and injured 49 people.

Islamic Resistance said its pre-dawn attack hit Israeli-SLA positions on the edge of the "security zone" near Mount Safi, 20 kilometres southeast of Sidon.

"To the cries of 'Ya Ali,' Islamic Resistance staged the biggest and largest attack of its kind," Islamic Resistance said. Ali is an early Muslim caliph revered by Shi'ites.

The group draws most of its fighters from Hizbollah. About 300 Iranian Revolutionary Guards work with Hizbollah in South Lebanon.

Islamic Resistance has frequently raided Israeli-SLA positions in the "security zone," a 10-kilometre deep and 120-kilometre long zone which Israel set up in mid-1985.

A Hizbollah communique said Sunday's attack was launched by four companies, a total of about 250 men. Residents said the four positions attacked were between 600 and 1,000 metres apart on a rugged ridge.

"We vow to our innocent martyrs that the route of Islamic Resistance shall continue from victory to victory until we wipe Israel from existence," the group said.

Reagan under mounting pressure

(Continued from page 1)

pledges of assistance from Britain and France and negotiates with Saudi Arabia for landing rights for U.S. planes.

"I am saying that before we sign any agreement to do anything, any transfer of this, we ought to negotiate for the base rights and we ought to negotiate with our allies," Mr. Lugar said.

The House of Representatives and Senate were expected to pass bills requiring Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger to report within seven days on the plan to put American flags on Kuwaiti tankers and to defend the vessels.

Mr. Reagan's aides said he would sign the bills, thereby averting for the time being the formal invocation of the War Powers Act. That act, passed in 1973 after the Vietnam war, curbs the president's powers to send troops into conflict.

While the first of the Kuwaiti tankers could be refuelled as early as Wednesday, Assistant Secretary of Defence Richard

Armitage said the ship was in Europe and the U.S. navy would not begin escorting the vessels for several weeks.

The New York Times reported Sunday that in light of the attack on the Stark, the Pentagon wants to send larger vessels, including cruisers, to the Gulf, to serve as escorts.

Quoting government officials, the newspaper said the naval commander in the Gulf, who believes smaller vessels are adequate, were likely to be overruled in a list of escort vessels now being compiled.

The newspaper said military officials are predicting the Joint Chiefs of Staff will sent the guided missile cruiser Virginia and may also send a more modern cruiser of the Aegis class. It said both ships have more powerful radar and defence systems than frigates such as the Stark.

The plan also is expected to call for stationing an aircraft carrier outside the Gulf at least occasionally, the newspaper said.

Labour-Likud feud blocks envoy

(Continued from page 1)

with differing foreign policies is nearly impossible," said a veteran Israeli diplomat whose name figured briefly in the speculation.

The government is deeply split over Mr. Peres' diplomatic moves to bring about an international Middle East peace conference, while Mr. Shamir totally opposes.

Mr. Peres' latest nominee for the position, Tel Aviv University

professor Itamar Rabinovitch, seen as politically neutral, withdrew his name from consideration on Friday, apparently disillusioned by the failure to reach a decision.

Aides said Mr. Shamir had proposed keeping Mr. Roseane in his post for several months until a suitable candidate was found, but Mr. Peres, who has largely bypassed the hawkish envoy, opposed the move and ordered the ambassador home.

Road injuries and deaths during 'Eid holiday lowest in 12 years

AMMAN (J.T.) — The police authorities in Jordan have reported a significant drop in road accidents and casualties over the past 'Eid Al-Fitr holiday following the holy month of Ramadan in Jordan.

According to figures released here, only two people were killed and 55 injured in a total of 29 road accidents in the country over the past five days. Colonel Mohammad Al-Fare', deputy director of police in the Amman area, says this was the lowest figure reported during 'Eid Al-Fitr in 12 years.

Last year, the Public Security Department (PSD) said that 15 people were killed and 500 others were injured in road accidents, fires, other accidents and incidents which occurred during 'Eid Al-Fitr.

Col. Fare' attributed the drop to measures taken by the police departments, mainly in Amman region, in organising the flow of traffic and increasing public awareness and cooperation with the traffic police. These police, he said, worked in shifts day and night in a bid to reduce accidents on the roads.

The total number of cases admitted to Al-Bashir government hospital in Amman during the holiday, which started last Wednesday and continued through Saturday, was put at 124, of which 24 were suffering from burns.

Col. Fare' said that 13 of injured were children aged from one and a half to 10 years and had been playing with fireworks when they sustained burns or injuries.

The Jordan University Hospital treated four people involved in road accidents, he said.

District security centres to begin receiving road accident reports

By Ahmad Kreishan
Al-Ra'i Reporter

AMMAN — The Amman police department has decided to entrust the task of investigating traffic accidents to a number of security centres in the capital as of today. This step is being taken to make it easier for members of the public to have their traffic problems speedily solved and to ease the burden from the Central Traffic Department, according to spokesman for the police department.

He said that the following security centres will take charge of the new task: Al-Muhajirin, Al-Husseini, Al-Shmeisani, Zahran, Jabal Amman, Luweideh, Ashrafieh, and Rashid. These stations, he added, will deal with reports of traffic accidents within their own region. There will be no need for motorists involved in road accidents to call at the Central Traffic Department. Specific instructions have been issued to the new centres to handle problems related to the road accidents, according to the spokesman.

Telephone numbers

He gave the following tele-

phone numbers which he said could be used to reach the stations: Al-Muhajirin (634361), Al-Husseini (649193), Shmeisani (603875), Luweideh (651610), Zahran (659986), Jabal Amman (654344), Ashrafieh (787108), Rashid (678191). The following telephone numbers of police stations could be used as well: 639149, 637777, 621111, the spokesman said.

According to the spokesman, motorists involved in road acci-

dents at Marka, Hashimi, Taj, Naser and downtown will be referred to the central traffic office at Mahatta for the time being, but in future other centres will be assigned to help carry out the task.

The spokesman said that road accidents occurring in Sahab, Wadi Seer, Baiader, Sweileh, Naour, Jweideh, Qweisneh, Abu Nuseir and Madaba will be dealt with at police stations in each particular area, respectively.

Batayneh returns from U.S. speaking tour

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lower House of Parliament Rezk Al-Batayneh returned home Sunday after a three-week visit to the U.S. at the invitation of the U.S. government. His tour followed his participation in the International Parliamentary Union conference held in Nicaragua.

During his visit to the U.S., Mr. Batayneh delivered a lecture on peace in the Middle East at the Cosmos Club at the invitation of a Washington D.C. institute on foreign relations.

He also delivered a lecture on the development of Arab-American relations since World War II at the invitation of U.S. Congressman Charles Woolen. He also met with a number of Congress members and heads of Arab societies and institutions in charge of promoting Arab rights. Also, in Los Angeles, Mr. Batayneh met with a number of Jordanians and other Arabs, and with a number of politicians, writers, media people as well as presidents and professors of universities.

Ministry to revise voter lists for parliamentary elections

AMMAN (J.T.) — Plans are going ahead to revise the lists of voters who registered for parliamentary elections during a 14-day period last month.

A spokesman for the criminal court in Amman said that more than 2,500 convicted criminals will be denied the right to vote in the coming election. Lists of the convicted persons who served one or more years in prison for criminal offences between 1976 and 1987 will be given to the Ministry of Interior today, Monday, so that voting lists can be checked, according to the spokesman. Also included in the lists will be those that have been sentenced, but are now fugitives from law.

On May 24, Minister of In-

terior Rajai Dajani announced that plans were going ahead for issuing special voting cards for all eligible voters who registered their names at the 700 registration centres in the Kingdom earlier this month.

The minister said the cards would be issued by Civil Registration Department centres around the Kingdom as of July 1, 1987.

The Ministry of Interior also took another step towards preparing for the elections by displaying voter lists outside registration centres to allow citizens to contest any names that do not

comply with the set regulations. The contest period expires on June 6.

A spokesman for the ministry said on Sunday that Mr. Dajani has issued instructions for revising the lists of voters by crossing out the names of the convicted criminals.

In accordance with the election law, also all members of the Armed Forces and Public Security are not eligible for voting in parliamentary election in Jordan.

According to the Ministry of Interior, a total of 912,011 voters registered their names at the registration centres in May by producing the family books that have been issued by Civil Registration Department centres in the Kingdom.

According to Mr. Dajani, all registered voters could obtain special voter cards free of cost provided they submit two photographs each and an application for the cards at the Civil Registration Department centres.

But, the question of obtaining such cards had been at the centre of public controversy, since it has been charged that the complex procedure would discourage many voters from taking part in the election altogether.

Housing estate owners urged to claim units

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Housing Corporation has urged beneficiaries who have registered to own units in the Abu Nuseir Housing Estate to take possession of their units as soon as possible.

Housing Corporation Director Shafiq Zawaideh said that June 16 has been fixed as the final date for these beneficiaries to come forward or they risk forfeiting their rights to these units. The Housing Corporation will not allow the beneficiaries to delay paying premiums on their housing units except for those units in quarters five and eight which are not ready because electricity is still being installed, Mr. Zawaideh noted.

The Housing Corporation has distributed the 3,500 housing units at the Abu Nuseir Housing Estate, west of here, to government employees. An additional 300 units will be offered for sale to retired personnel and the private sector.

These 300 units will be sold to those willing to pay 10 per cent of

the cost in advance, according to Mr. Zawaideh. Government employees have been exempted from such advance payments.

After the government revised their prices earlier this year and dropped the requirement for advance payment, many government employees submitted applications to own units at Abu Nuseir. These beneficiaries were allowed to spread instalments over 30 years instead of 25 with an interest of 5.5 per cent annually.

According to Mr. Zawaideh, a special committee from the beneficiaries will be set up to supervise the work of the central heating station which has been set up at the housing site. But, he said, maintenance of the central heating station will be undertaken by the Housing Corporation.

The housing units were built on only half of the land allotted for the project carried out by Chinese and French contracting firms. According to Mr. Zawaideh, the other half will be put up for sale to the public.

Final exams begin today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Approximately 550,000 students of Jordan's private and public schools today begin taking their final school examinations before the annual three-month summer holiday in the Kingdom.

The examination sessions will last from June 1 until 9 and involve all primary, preparatory and secondary stages with the exception of the third secondary and third preparatory classes which took school exams last month, according to Mr. Ahmad Taqi, director of examinations at the Ministry of Education.

Cave of the seven sleepers' legend lives on despite lack of evidence

Text by Josephine Zananiri
Photographs by Osman Akuz
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The cave of the seven sleepers rests peacefully on the rolling hillside at Al-Raqim before the plains south of Amman. The area is another strange fragment in the extraordinary and varied history of Jordan.

The site consists of a number of tombs generally dating from the Byzantine era. Surrounding the actual cave are other places of burial: none, however, are quite as spectacular as the cave itself. Originally dominated by a church and later a more substantial mosque, both now derelict, the cave and its environs stand as an intricately carved and chiseled monument to death.

From the main road, the small section of sacred ground offers a brief glimpse of the door to the cave midway up the hill side, surrounded by a tumble of ancient carved stones strewn across the sloping hill. Closer inspection reveals the base walls of the mosque lower on the hillside and beneath it a number of tombs, shallow rectangles, carved directly into the flat rock surface.

Each grave has been chiseled out with superb precision and several still have their heavily carved stone covers wedged over the separate compartments. Near the cave door, a well plunges deep into the rocks below. Its waters may well have been used by those attending the mosque as well as travellers weary after their journey through the southern desert.

The exterior wall of the cave is primarily ornate, carved in a rough Byzantine style. The door, of modern origin, is flanked by a well worn but substantial pair of columns complete with capitals. The cave itself is cool and serene. It consists of three chambers adjoining a central lobby. Three carved semi-circular steps lead down to the core. The two wings, site of the actual tombs of the sleepers, have vaulted ceilings cut directly out of the rock.

The four coffins too are cut from the rock and directly connected to the walls of the cave. They are decorated in the same primitive and lavish style as the exterior; a motif of squares, a wreath and so on.

A fine arch separates the final chamber from the central lobby.

It is constructed of stone blocks and is one of the few elements in the cave not carved from the actual interior stone surface. On the right of the chamber, a vent or duct some 60 by 40 centimetres square rises from the cave to the church above. It is at present covered by a metal plate, but at the time of the sleepers, it would have allowed light to penetrate the cave.

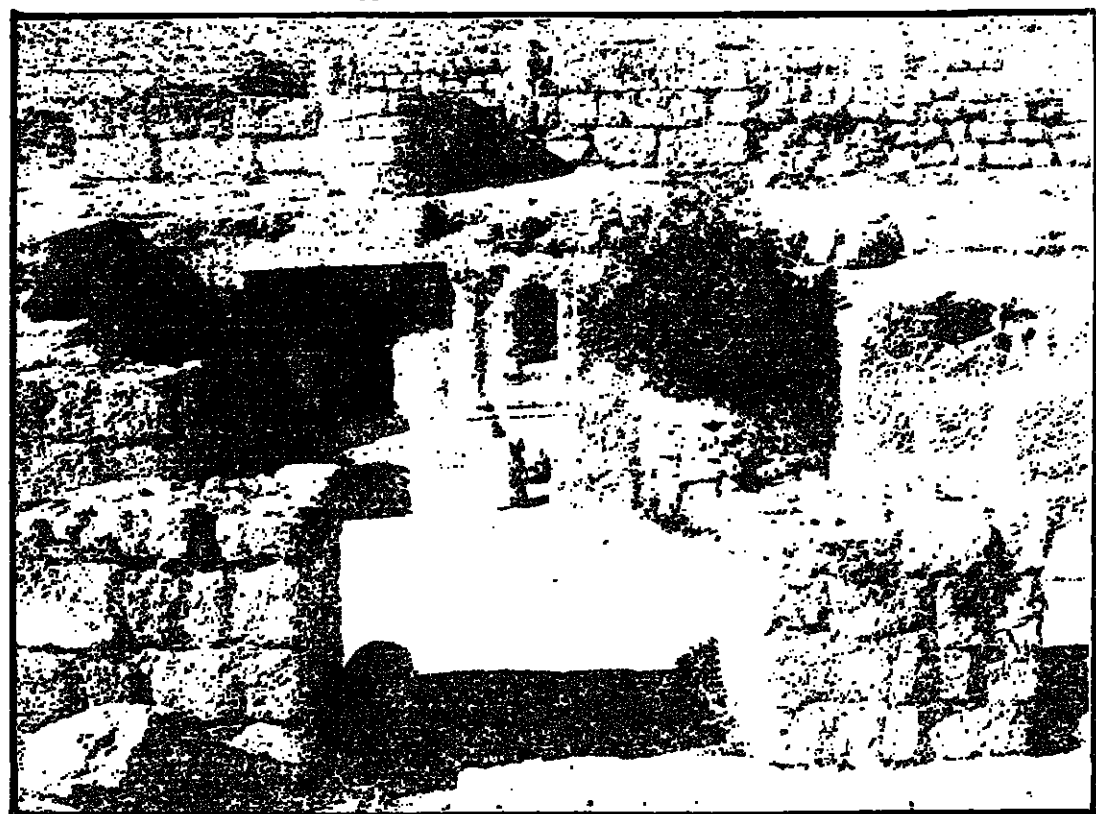
Mr. Abdullah Nsour, head of the Department of Islamic Antiquities at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs relates the extraordinary history of the cave. He sets the story against the background of ancient Philadelphia (modern Amman) which was ruled at the time by the despot Trajan. He was responsible for construction of the massive road linking Basra with Aqaba. He also built the baths and amphitheatre of downtown Amman, according to Mr. Nsour.

The official religion of both the Eastern and Western Roman empires was at that time paganism and the monotheists of the Near East were placed in direct opposition to the despot Trajan. Many Christians "were exposed to death or torture for their beliefs including the young people of the cave," adds Mr. Nsour.

He continues: "Trajan sent for these people when he learnt of their devotion to one God and threatened the community with death unless they made the relevant sacrifices to the Roman gods. They however refused but owing to the youth of the group the despot delayed his decision telling them: 'I will stay your execution until tomorrow as your teeth are still young. You will have time to wait and ponder your fate.'"

That night, the group escaped and a young shepherd followed after them with his dog. Trajan ordered his soldiers to seek out the men who by that time had entered the cave with the shepherd and his canine friend. However, continues Mr. Nsour, "the soldiers were afraid to enter and returned to their ruler for further instructions." They were ordered to return and block the entry of the cave so that those inside would die of hunger and thirst. He adds: "at this point God sent sleep to the inhabitants and they slept unknowingly for thirty years. Then God woke them up."

"Naturally they were hungry after such an extraordinary sleep and sent one of their group to Philadelphia to buy food. During the walk he found much change and cautiously approached the town whose inhabitants now appeared unfamiliar to him. When he produced some coins to pay for the purchased food, 'he was accused of finding a trea-



The entrance to the cave of the seven sleepers can be seen flanked by columns of crude Byzantine design. In the foreground are remnants of the

mosque and behind the cave entrance are the ruins of a Byzantine church.

sure," says Mr. Nsour. Subsequently, he told his story to the townspeople who took him to Theodosius, the then ruler of the area.

A party returned with the king and the sleeper to the cave where they encountered the inhabitants praying. "Theodosius embraced the group and explained that he was a believer and that Trajan was long dead," continues Mr. Nsour. "The sleepers then returned to their cave and God sent sleep to them and took their lives."

In the cave today the remains of its former inhabitants are still visible: the delicate skull of a dog, a collection of brown terracotta urns, some coins, bridle ornaments, several strings of beads as well as the skeletons of those buried in the cave.

Is this alone sufficient indication that the cavern is the actual site of the cave of the seven sleepers? A number of other rival sites exists ranging from Turkey to Saudi Arabia and less serious contenders as far away as Scandinavia. Mr. Nsour maintains that of all the suggested places the cave of Al-Raqim most readily fits the available evidence.

Locality alone indicates the Jordanian site as the logical choice as the caves are within walking distance of Amman or the city of Philadelphia according to Mr. Nsour. The existence of the church and the mosque are also attested to by historical reports. And Al-Raqim is also

mentioned in old Arabic poetry where geographical guide lines site the cave in that area.

Mr. Nsour also points out that the Koran specifies that the sun did not enter directly through an opening of the cave. When the sun rises, it rises on the right of the cave and when it sets it sets on the left. Such movements of light are only visible in the Al-Raqim caves because of the duct in the back chamber which does not permit direct sunlight but allows light to penetrate the otherwise sealed cave.

Finally the cavern was discovered by Said Ibn Amer who was sent by Omar Ibn Al-Qatab to fight in the battle of Yarmouk.

He lost his way prior to the battle and explored the area. After finding the cave which he identified from the Koran, he faced the army of Amman and defeated them. He later linked with the Muslim forces at Yarmouk and participated in that victory against the Byzantine army, adds Mr. Nsour.

A modern mosque has been built near the cave and it is attended by a care-taker now, so its future at this point is assured. Still, little is known of its extraordinary history. It remains one of the most secretive, peaceful and memorable fragments of Jordan's long history.



A view of the ruins of the church in the foreground overlooking the mosque beyond.

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- Another Pandora box?

THE ease with which Mathias Rust flew 700 kilometres from Helsinki to the heart of the Soviet Union in a Cessna aircraft two days ago demonstrates that no country, no matter how sophisticated its defences are, is totally impregnable. Last week's missile attack on the U.S. frigate Stark in the Gulf also lends support to the proposition that hi-technology is not a fail-safe assurance against attack from even a Third World country. These events in the last few days against the "integrity" of so-called sophisticated weaponry and hi-technology equipment should, likewise, cast serious doubts on the infallibility of the Star Wars technology which the U.S. is developing right now to serve as an insurance against nuclear weapons.

There is but one lesson to be drawn from the proven imperfection of weapons: Man should aspire to rely on other means to assure his survival. That is why arms control and nuclear disarmament should be accelerated and pursued more earnestly and energetically. And, in view of the potentially grave consequences of the on-going arms race between the superpowers and their surrogate partners, it would be wiser and more practical to avoid any linkage between nuclear disarmament and other issues, important as they may be. It must have dawned on all of us that the survival of the human race should remain the paramount concern for our policy-makers. This is not tantamount to sacrificing liberty, freedom and independence of nations for fear of armed struggle.

Rather it is for the protection of life from irreversible destruction in order to accord man continuing opportunity to enjoy liberty and freedom.

That is also why one could question the legitimacy of injecting the Soviet Union's record on human rights in the negotiations for arms control between the superpowers. No one would wish to belittle the human right issue in international relations, but we think this issue is essentially extraneous to the heart of the matter of arms control. But that was exactly what the U.S. president said last Saturday to the Conference of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War which was holding its seventh congress in Moscow. Disarmament negotiations should be negotiated and concluded on their own merits. If we allow the introduction of other issues to negotiations, then yet another Pandora box would be thrown wide open, with countless concerns pouring out of it, endlessly and aimlessly.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: A reminder of facts

PRINCE Hassan has reiterated Jordan's basic position with regard to the Arab people under Israeli occupation and said that assistance will continue in support of their steadfastness and until total Israeli withdrawal is achieved. Prince Hassan, who was addressing a banquet in his honour in London, made it clear that Jordan's continued help would go hand in hand with the endeavours to achieve an end to Israeli occupation. This assertion reminds the whole world of Jordan's responsibilities for enabling the Palestinian people to regain their rights, and also of the international community's duty to help bring about peace to the Middle East region, and freedom for the Palestinian people still suffering under occupation. The help to the Palestinians and the continued Jordanian endeavours to achieve peace lie at the foundation of Jordan's national policy as Prince Hassan emphasised. His statement came as Jordan continues efforts for convening an international peace conference for the removal of occupation from Arab land, another endeavour undertaken by Jordan to help bring about peace. Prince Hassan also referred to the situation in the Gulf region, urging the international community to help end Iran's aggression, something which will no doubt be conducive to peace.

Al Dustour: East, West and Mideast

A CALL by the seven-nation Warsaw Pact countries for a speedy solution for the Middle East problem represents a new support for the current diplomatic efforts aimed at establishing peace. The Warsaw Pact countries said that a just and comprehensive solution to the problem can come through an international conference to be held under United Nations auspices. This call also reaffirms official policy of the Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc countries vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli conflict and indicates a continuation of Soviet bloc attitude towards the on-going Gulf war. Apart from the Middle East question, the Warsaw Pact countries called for a quick end to the Gulf conflict and the start of peaceful negotiations. Of course, the pact's final communique referred in detail to East-West relations, disarmament and the U.S. "Star Wars" programme, but there was clear stress on the questions of the Gulf war and the Middle East which indicates Soviet concern over these issues, and keenness on resolving them. In the light of such concern and interest, we sincerely hope that the Warsaw Pact nations and Europe in general will exert more efforts towards peace, and we hope that the United States and the NATO nations will follow suit and help find peaceful solutions for the Middle East region's problems.

Sawt Al Shaab: Fishing in muddy waters

AMERICAN intervention in the Gulf came abruptly and without any introduction immediately after Iran paved the way for such intervention following years of futile fighting against Iraq. The attack on the U.S. frigate Stark was taken by the Americans as a pretext for open intervention in the Gulf region and to escalate tension in that turbulent region. The superpowers have failed over the past seven years to bring an end to the conflict, and all of a sudden we see them trying now to achieve their ambitions and carry out their plans in the Gulf. Since the Carter declaration about a rapid deployment force the United States has been trying to increase difficulties and escalate the tension through putting pressure on the countries of the Gulf region with the purpose of achieving American purposes and objectives. Part of the arrangement was the U.S. proposal that vessels belonging to the Gulf countries raise the American flag in order to secure protection. The superpowers are now trying to fish in the muddy waters of the Gulf, parading their warships and flexing their muscles, instead of resorting to international law and the United Nations to find a lasting solution for the problem. Instead of putting out the fire of the Gulf conflict, the superpowers are fuelling the conflagration with the purpose of securing strategic interests and goals.

Free navigation and flags of convenience

By Waleed S'adi

THE QUEST for free navigation in international waters in the Arab Gulf is a noble mission as far it goes. But the manner the U.S. administration is going about, i.e. hoisting U.S. flags on foreign ships, is fraught with serious implications in view of the prospective legal ramifications associated with this novel methodology and the on-going Iran-Iraq conflict.

There are obvious legal flaws in the decision to "lease" U.S. flags to foreign ships for belligerent conveniences. There is a number of international legislations on the subject of ship registrations which aim to curb and control the international tendency and practice to resort to "flags of convenience" for commercial and tax purposes. The rule of the thumb in this context is that there is much abuse of the "flags of convenience" practice already and all efforts must be directed to halt any further encroachment on the legitimate use of national flags for any purpose whatsoever. One could naturally argue more forcefully against the misuse of flags of convenience for non-commercial purposes and objectives especially those intended to facilitate and legalise belligerent pursuits.

In the case at bar where the U.S. administration has decided to wrap foreign ships with U.S. flags when navigating the Arab Gulf, the legal situation is further compounded by the constraints posed by state and federal legislations in the U.S. on improper registration of foreign ships for dubious reasons. The spirit and letter of these laws could very well be put in jeopardy if the Reagan administration resorts to improvised legal rationale to justify its precipitous registration of foreign ships in the U.S. state

or federal jurisdictions. The U.S. admiralty jurisprudence would be seriously threatened by any such expeditious efforts which aim to circumvent domestic and international legislations. One would have thought that the Reagan administration would have opted for the easier course of action, i.e., the use of bona fide registered ships, tankers or freighters for the purpose of securing oil imports, and the shipment of material to its friends in the area. Since the U.S. is reputed to be the number one maritime nation in the world it is puzzling why the U.S. opted for questionable methods to arrive at the same result.

There are other constraints on the U.S. decision to use shortcuts in this quest for free navigation and unimpeded and unhindered shipping in the Arab Gulf. The U.S. allies within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) have already served notice that the Arab Gulf area does not fall within the geopolitical scope of NATO and therefore they cannot lawfully take part in the U.S. initiative in the Gulf. This stand by NATO constitutes a very interesting declaration and embodies many far-reaching implications for the Western alliance. To say the least, such a position by NATO poses a serious setback for U.S. policy-makers in their determination to associate its Western allies in its military initiative in the Gulf.

What is suggested instead is the resort to international efforts under the U.N. Charter to arrive at the same result. The Western reservations about the U.S. initiative, which by the way does not enjoy bipartisan support in the U.S. Congress, is due also in part to the fear that such unilateral actions by the U.S. could further erode the U.N. Charter and the whole U.N. system. While it is

true that the U.N. system is held with contempt and ridicule in the U.S., the other Western countries do not associate themselves fully with this negative U.S. outlook on the international organisation. Even Japan, which is dependent on oil imports from the Gulf region up to 70 per cent of its energy needs, has decided to dis-associate itself from the recent U.S. efforts in the Gulf. There are calls everywhere for legitimate and effective international efforts instead of unilateral actions.

Viewed in the strict context of the conflict between Iraq and Iran and guided by the geopolitical conflict between Iran and the Arab states, this whole quest for free navigation in the Gulf assumes an additional dimension which hitherto remained in the background. It must be noted that whereas Iraq is dependent on a network of pipes to export its oil to the world, Iran is first and foremost dependent on "free navigation" in the Arab Gulf to export its oil and finance its war efforts against Iraq. Free navigation in a zone of war could very well mean in the final analysis that Iran becomes the beneficiary of unimpeded and unhindered shipping in the Gulf.

There is no doubt that there is but one way to secure the legitimate objectives of all the parties in the Gulf and it is no other than having the permanent members of the Security Council of the U.N. hold the bull by the horns and put an immediate end to the war between Iran and Iraq. There is no denying that the major powers have the means to stop this senseless war forthwith if they so desired. This is the sensible objective and the sensible method as well. Short-cuts have not worked in the past and they are not likely to succeed in the future.

U.S. report on human rights is a flagrant misrepresentation of facts on the ground in Israel and the occupied territories

By Abdul Jawad Saleh

The writer is the deported mayor of the city of Al Bireh on the occupied West Bank. He visited the U.S. recently and wrote this letter to the American Secretary of State, commenting on the State Department's report on human rights, which was submitted to Congress on Feb. 13, 1986.

I AM the deported mayor of the elected council of the city of Al Bireh, elected twice, before Israel had occupied the West Bank in 1967, and again in 1972, under Israeli occupation. My arbitrary deportation was without trial or proper legal procedure.

The civilised and democratic community of nations is now celebrating the International Day of Human Rights. My uprooting from my birth place, family, and people has neither eroded my faith nor swayed me from being a disciple and staunch advocate of the noble cause of human rights, not only of the Palestinian people, of whom I am proud to be descended, but to the human rights of all peoples regardless of religion, race or any other criteria.

As a victim of Israeli repressive measures, I have read carefully and with great interest the section of your 1986 report on human rights dealing with the occupied Palestinian territories.

The U.S. Department of State submitted its report of February 13, 1986 to the 99th Congress in accordance with Section 116(d) and 502(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act. This act forbids the U.S. government to extend its economic assistance to a foreign country, the government of which violates internationally-recognised human rights.

The report acknowledges the existence of racist laws, such as the Law of Return of 1950, the Citizenship Law of 1952, and the right of land ownership which is claimed only by Jews (p.1264), though the report does not name these laws as such. These laws are part of the Israeli legal structure. (Israel has no constitution). The report cites these exclusive laws: "The law of Return of 1950 which abolished all restrictions on Jewish immigration, and the citizenship upon arrival in Israel, confer an advantage on Jews in matters of immigration and citizenship" (U.S. report, p. 1261). The report omits the fact that the Jewish National Fund prohibits the employment of non-Jewish labour to work on Jewish land. Moreover, non-Jews are not permitted to buy these lands which were originally confiscated from Palestinians. The U.S. report fails to note that those "advantages" are racially discriminatory laws. In fact these laws constitute the Israeli ideological denial of Palestinian human rights, the right to self-determination and the right to an independent state on the land of their country.

The report, in contravention of basic human rights and democratic principles categorically confirms that, "Israel is a parliamentary democracy which guarantees by law and reflects in practice the civil, political, and religious rights of its citizens." (U.S. report, p. 1257).

The report cites the fact that the Mandatory Emergency Laws and regulations of 1945 were implemented at the founding of the state. But the report does not refer to their nature nor to their exclusive applicability against the Palestinians, whom Israel describes as the "Arabs of Israel." The regulations allow the arrest of a person, with or without warning, censorship of newspapers, publications, books and telegrams, the authority to check every piece of mail, restriction of free movement, limitation of contact with others, and banishment from place of residence without need for approval of judicial surveillance, termination of a worker by order of the ministry of defence, deportation from the country by order of the ministry of defence, confiscation of property or its destruction, closing of areas, and imposing of curfews.

Many Jewish leaders condemned these laws when they were issued. Mr. Ya'cov Shimshon Shapiro, who later became minister of justice, condemned these laws at their imposition in 1945: "The system established in Palestine since the issue of the Defence Laws is unparalleled in any civilised country; there were no such laws even in Nazi Germany" (Clarke, John Henrik. The land question in Palestine, and in East and Southern Africa. U.N. Seminar, Arusha, Tanzania, July 14-18, 1980).

A flagrant misrepresentation is the report coverage of Israel's colonisation of the occupied Palestinian territories, principally of private owned land. Though the report emphasises the tremendous effects of such colonisation, it treats Israeli colonies in the occupied territories out of context. It does not ascribe to the illegality of such colonies, nor does it mention that they contravene The Hague regulations of 1907 and the 1949 Geneva Convention. With no regards to these conventions which bind civilised nations, the U.S. State Department representative in the American Consulate at Jerusalem visits officially those colonisers, who constitute a special gang of terrorists, regarding them as worth American citizens.

Naïve on my part did not prompt this letter. I believe as a matter of certainty the ulterior motives of the writers as well as the adopters of the U.S. report. It is the report's grotesque misrepresentation of the Israeli aggressive and undemocratic actions committed against Palestinian local governments and municipal councils which motivated this letter. The U.S. report notes that the Israeli "civil administration authorities have attempted to reshape local politics, particularly by blocking the influence of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and by trying to promote an alternate leadership.... citing security considerations, postponed further elections and removed numerous elected and appointed officials in the West Bank and Gaza." (p.1268).

The above quotation contains misrepresentation and omissions. The U.S. report as such is unfair. It is unequivocally subjective. The adoption of the Israeli justification of undermining one of the major democratic institutions in the occupied territories, by the State Department, constitutes an anomalous approval of such repressive measure. The mayors as the majority of the Palestinian people consider the PLO as their representative. But the PLO has no organisational influence over the mayors. If a mayor is found guilty of being a member of

the PLO, the Israeli government should subject him to the legal process to judge his "crime." But to dissolve the councils and terminate the peoples' mandate is in contravention of the basic principles of the Human Rights Declaration.

As a matter of fact, the mayors were deposed because they rejected outright the establishment of the civil administration, imposed unilaterally by a military order, before the PLO Executive Committee, of which then I had been a member, had taken a negative stand or resolution. It is worth noting that the establishment of the civil administration was imposed when the American, Egyptian and Israeli interlocutors were negotiating Palestinian autonomy. The imposition was an Israeli attempt to implement their version of "autonomy." However, the mayor's rejection was supported unanimously by the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. This national consensus was demonstrated during the outbreak of protest over the implementation of the civil administration, which continued for a few months during which the Israeli military government killed 28 Palestinians in suppressing the demonstrations. Moreover, the rejection of the Israeli imposed civil administration was and still based on the following:

1. The imposition of the civil administration constitutes a unilateral constitutional change of the occupied territories status.
2. This constitutional change of status was verified by the imposition of another military order, the same day the civil administration military order was issued. The other order incorporates the West Bank under the direct control of Israel's central military command. These two annexationist military orders defied all international conventions pertaining to occupied territories.
3. These changes incorporating the occupied Palestinian territories into "greater Israel" have destroyed the possibility of a just settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. It has undermined the peace process which depends basically on the conception of a historical territorial compromise.
4. The constitutional changes of militarily occupied territories eventually change the future status of the territories and their people. The Palestinians under the new status are considered an ethnic minority, with limited human rights and no political voice. However, the Palestinians are aware of the plans of collective expulsion, under favourable circumstances, such as war, as General (Reserve) Aharon Yariv had disclosed.

The U.S. report refers to the Israeli infringements on the Palestinians' right to elect their municipal representatives and the freezing of their democratic institutions since 1980 as "postponement of further elections." Nearly a decade has passed without holding this democratic process, and no hopes lie in the support from its allies.

In the occupied territories the report acknowledges Israeli violations of Palestinian human rights, in many aspects, making their life intolerable. The following violations are cited: administrative detention, deportation, home and town arrest, collective punishment, entering private homes and institutions without prior judicial approval, destruction of homes, interrogations of individuals about their political views, restriction of freedom of speech, censorship of Palestinian newspapers, banning books and periodicals, withholding freedom of peaceful assembly and association, restrictions on labour and professional unions, bannings on travel, economic pressure by banning collectively the export of agricultural produce, and restrictions on investments, disproportionate allocations of water for the benefit of Israeli colonisers, restrictions on the Palestinian fishing industry, and land confiscation which "significantly affects the lives and economic activities of Palestinians."

Israel's futile attempts to find an "alternate" leadership is synonymous to its obnoxious denial of the existence of a Palestinian people, living on their historical homeland, where they have a right to live, and to determine their inalienable national rights. A striking proof of this Israeli denial is the dismissal of one of its puppets, the head of the Hebron village league, which was formed as an alternative leadership, by a military order, when this puppet attempted to establish a "Palestinian peace party" to negotiate a peaceful settlement with Israel.

The U.S. report enumerates other Israeli violations of the basic principles of human rights, whether in Israel proper or in the occupied territories, which are recognised by the civilised community of nations. The report acknowledges that the "Israeli Arabs, however, are relatively powerless and tend to feel alienated.... Israeli Arabs assert (what the human rights division think?) that they are denied equal access to education, housing, and other services and that they are discriminated against in such areas as employment and appointment to government positions. Government grants to Arab local councils represent a smaller percentage of the councils budgets than is the case for grants to Jewish municipalities. While Arabs make up about 16 per cent of the population of Israel, less than two per cent of the persons in senior government positions are Arabs, less than three per cent of Israeli judges are Arabs, and no large bank, industrial enterprise, or agricultural undertaking in Israel is headed by an Israeli Arab." (p.1265).

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As a student of the noble principles of the Human Rights Declaration, I believe that the contents of the U.S. report, regardless of its omissions and misrepresentations, submitted to the 99th Congress in accordance with Section 116(D) and 502(B) of the Foreign Assistance Act, contradicts and refutes this act and the GSP, for the act and the GSP prohibit U.S. economic assistance to any country, the government of which "engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognised human rights...."

The violations of Palestinian Human Rights noted by the U.S. report is in contravention of The Hague regulations of 1907 and the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention, which Article 6 of the Constitution of the United States considers as part of the law of the U.S.

The State Department's report contradicts itself by noting that Israel "by law and practice" guarantees human rights when, the contents of the report enumerates unlimited violations the "Arabs of Israel" are suffering, besides a long list, incomplete as we have shown, of flagrant violations of Palestinian human rights in the occupied territories. I am afraid that this unequivocal contradiction puts the authenticity of the U.S. government's commitment to the principles of human rights under the perspectives of doubt and scrutiny.

As a matter of fact, the Israeli violations noted in the U.S. report, despite many omissions, prohibit the U.S. government, according to the spirit and meaning of Foreign Assistance Act and the Generalised System of Preferences, from offering further military and economic aid to Israel.

It should be noted that an indiscriminatory commitment to the principles of human rights is a role played only by great leaders able to open new visions and avenues in the dark tunnels of darkness, hatred and prejudice which wrap the politics of vested interests. Human Rights principles are indivisible; they are bestowed to some (Soviet Jews) and deprived from others (the Palestinians). It is hardly in keeping with the principles of peace and justice that the man who was appointed mayor of Al Bireh is a functional illiterate.

In the interest of peace and justice, therefore, I would submit the following:

1. In accordance with the letter and spirit of the Foreign Assistance Act and the Generalised System of Preferences, the U.S. government should deny any further military and economic aid to Israel.
2. Revoke the democratic institutions of the municipal councils by holding elections immediately for those posts.
3. Return all the deported community leaders and mayors.
4. Abolish all racially discriminatory measures which threaten peace and undermine justice.



Abdul Jawad Saleh

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The U.S. government's report fails again to cover other major violations of Palestinian human rights in the economic field. Israel's systematic policy of pauperisation and dependency under prolonged occupation has proved catastrophic to the Palestinian economy. Prohibition of economic development is pursued impudently through military orders. Unprecedented even in the darkest ages of mankind, the Israeli authorities issued a notorious order, no. 1015, in 1982, prohibiting Palestinians from planting one single fruit bearing tree without prior approval of the military "civil administration" and according to its imposed conditions.

Another grave omission by the U.S. report is its failure to report about the discriminatory policies, in wages and accrued benefits, and eventually exploitation of Palestinian labourers working in Israel. (see Zucker, David (Deddi) team director. Human Rights in the Occupied Territories 1979-1983. International Peace in the Middle East, Tel Aviv, 1983).

The omission is in contravention of the U.S. Generalised System of Preferences Renewal Act of 1984 which requires reporting on worker rights in GSP beneficiary countries and states that internationally recognised worker rights include "(a) the right of association; (b) the right to organise and bargain collectively; (c) a prohibition on the use of any form of forced or compulsory labour; (d) a minimum age for the employment of children; and (e) acceptable conditions of work with respect to minimum wages, hours of work, and occupational safety and health."

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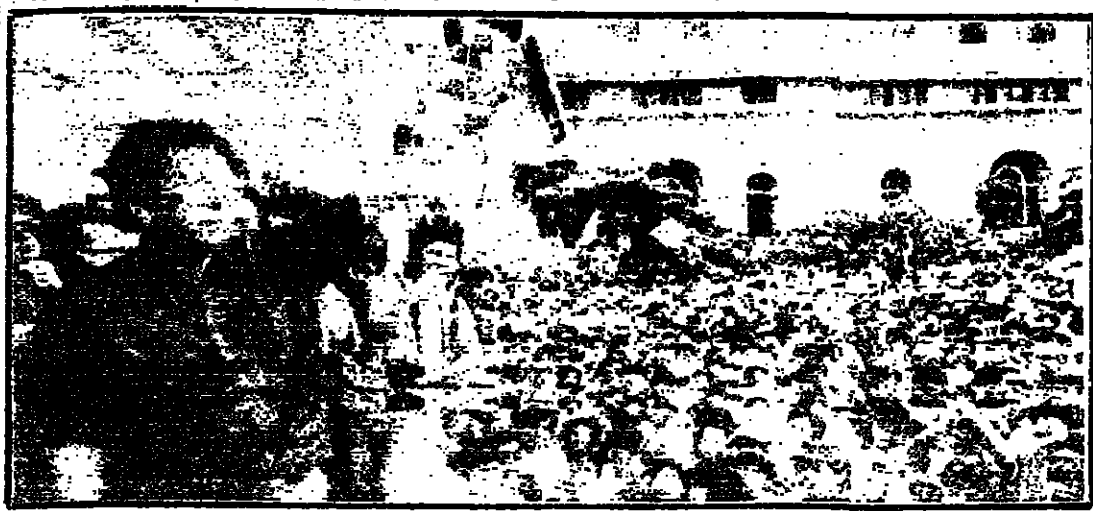
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3. Return all the deported community leaders and mayors.
4. Abolish all racially discriminatory measures which threaten peace and undermine justice.



Juan Ponce Enrile (above), former defence minister and now an opposition leader, displays what he said was a tampered tally sheet of the May 11 election to a rally of supporters in Manila last week. The rally, which was supposed to be an indefinite sit-in until President Corazon Aquino stepped down, fizzled out overnight and was later dispersed by policemen.

Enrile fails to bring opposition out of Marcos' shadow

By Robert H. Reid
The Associated Press

MANILA — Despite fraud charges and sharp rhetoric, former Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile has failed so far to win broad support or to bring his opposition movement out of the shadow of Ferdinand E. Marcos.

Enrile's protests, charging fraud in the May 11 congressional election, have not drawn increasing numbers of Filipinos. Nor have they attracted significant participation by military personnel for whom Enrile purports to speak.

Instead of rallying support for Enrile's political ambitions, the demonstrations appear simply to have reinvigorated a hard core of Marcos loyalists, who want the former president returned from Hawaii and installed in power.

"He was supposed to lead us to bring down Cory," said Marcos loyalist Annie Ferrer, referring to President Corazon Aquino by her nickname. For Ferrer and other Marcos loyalists, Enrile's fraud charges seem almost irrelevant to the goal of restoring the former administration.

Ironically, it was Enrile's February 1986 mutiny against Marcos that triggered the mass demonstrations that toppled his 20-year administration and brought Mrs. Aquino to power.

That mutiny brought hundreds of thousands into the streets before Camp Crame and Camp Aguinaldo, the city's major military barracks. But Enrile's recent protests have drawn no more than the some 25,000 who turned out for a May 14 rally.

Recent protests have drawn smaller crowds, and many if not most of them appear to be avowed Marcos loyalists, a development that has clearly embarrassed some of Enrile's aides.

During a rally last Sunday, which drew some 15,000 people, protesters carried a few blue-and-

white Enrile banners. Speakers referred to the mercurial former defence minister as "our leader" and echoed his charges that Aquino's followers had rigged the election.

But when one speaker asked the crowd who they wanted to replace Aquino, the protesters shouted "Marcos."

Leaflets distributed through the crowd spoke of Marcos as the legitimate Philippine president, robbed of his rightful position by a conspiracy involving Aquino and the U.S. administration of President Ronald Reagan.

The fear of tarnishing the centre-right opposition with the stain of Marcos led Enrile's Grand Alliance for Democracy to keep several loyalists off its senate ticket in March. That in turn prompted the pro-Marcos New Society Movement to field its own slate of nominees and split the conservative opposition.

"In their trip to fantasy land, Enrile and his band have come to the full circle of reunification with the Marcos loyalists," wrote commentator Amador Doronila.

Enrile's rallies have attracted attention not because of numbers of participants but because of the possibility that he might convince important segments of the military that the election had indeed been rigged.

After some 17 years as defence minister, Enrile still wields considerable influence within the military, much of which remains disenchanted with the Aquino administration because of her peace overtures to Communist rebels.

Chief of staff Fidel V. Ramos, who joined Enrile in his 1986 mutiny, has ordered troops to remain neutral and not to join the protests. Ramos warned that some opposition groups were recruiting active duty and retired soldiers for new moves against the government.

So far, there is no sign that Ramos' order has been disobeyed

by a significant number of active duty military personnel. The Philippine Constabulary, which is a branch of the armed forces, showed little hesitation Monday in following orders to clear demonstrators from the gates of Camp Crame with tear gas and water cannon.

The Aquino government appears confident it can ride out the protests unless support for Enrile grows within the ranks.

"They don't have the staying power, and it's not a matter of presidential concern," said presidential executive secretary Joker Arroyo. "They won't succeed."

Some former Enrile supporters in the ranks have told reporters privately they will not follow their former leader this time. The officers, speaking on condition they not be named, said they believe Enrile let them down last November when at the last moment he refused to join them in a planned coup.

Aquino fired Enrile in the wake of the abortive attempt.

Philippine commentators believe Enrile's protests also have failed largely because his alliance has been unable to provide convincing evidence of nationally orchestrated fraud.

The alliance has provided evidence of election commission incompetence — as have some administration candidates — and indications of apparent cheating in local congressional contests, which Aquino has acknowledged.

"But given Aquino's popularity, and the stain of past association with Marcos that marks many alliance figures, many commentators believe the public will not believe fraud charges without near-irrefutable evidence."

"Unless the proofs are more solid, it will be very hard for the Grand Alliance for Democracy to convince the people that the polls were in fact rigged in favour of (the administration)," wrote commentator Art Borja.

Mexico's illegals scorn the 'cactus curtain'

U.S. commentators call them "the brown tide." But Mexican migrants see only the money and jobs awaiting them across the U.S. border. David Gardner reports on Washington's latest attempt to control entry of foreign migrants into the U.S.

MEXICO CITY — As the sticky afternoon wore into a fresh-breezed evening, Tijuana's Libertad colony, set up on the very edge of the Californian frontier by Mexicans deported from the U.S. during the 1930s depression, bustled into life.

Below it Emiliano Zapata Canyon, the most used transit route for illegal migrant labour crossing Mexico's 3,200-kilometre border with the U.S. started filling up. In a no man's land which is strictly speaking U.S. territory, the El Illegal restaurant — chicken and spring onions displayed on a dustbin lid and a picnic cooler full of beer under a plastic canopy — was doing brisk business. More ancillary services, among them a stall offering shoes for the trudge across the Californian border to San Ysidro and San Diego, spring up nearby.

This was the week Washington activated its major new legislative attempt to control the entry of foreign workers — the Simpson-Rodino law, so called after its Congressional progenitors. But there were few signs it was having much effect on migration patterns from Mexico, its main target.

Near El Illegal, a tight knot of nine young peasants from the central State of Morelos were waiting for sunset to start out for Fresno.

Roberto Luna Cortes, who appeared as a natural spokesman, was making his sixth trip to the orange, cherry, tomato and strawberry harvests. In three months' work he reckons to save \$2,000, which "I could maybe save in five years working in Mexico."

The group's employer, Luna said, was meeting them on the other side.

Further down the dusty canyon, with a U.S. border patrol helicopter (known to illegals as The Fly) whirring over a nearby

hill, Sergio Ramirez Alcantara maintained a solitary vigil. Aged 31, from President Miguel de la Madrid's home state of Colima, he had been deported two days earlier and was on his way back to Los Angeles (border patrol permitting), to collect \$650 owing to him from two jobs, in a garment factory and a restaurant.

The Simpson-Rodino legislation views all these migrants, who traditionally fill unskilled jobs Americans do not want, as a culturally threatening, amorphous horde. Students of this unique border where developed and developing worlds sit cheek by jowl — the so-called Tortilla or Cactus Curtain — point out that whereas 20 years ago 85 per cent of migrants were peasants going to and from fields, two thirds of illegals now come from cities and find urban, mostly service, and hence far more visible jobs in the U.S.

Jack Anderson, one of the U.S.'s most widely read syndicated columnists, described them recently as "the brown tide lapping against our southern border" in an alarmist article in the magazine Penthouse.

Immigration officials and analysts from both sides of the border tend to dismiss this sort of commentary as political froth for U.S. domestic consumption despite its racist tinge. Leading scholars of the problem at the University of California's Center for U.S. Mexican Studies in San Diego, for instance, have insisted that the legislation does not alter socio-economic, demographic and technological realities which pull surplus labour out of Mexico to meet a secular demand for cheap labour in U.S. industries, services and agriculture.

Jorge Bustamante, head of the College of the Northern Border think tank which has branches in

every major Mexican border city, concurs, pouring scorn on the catastrophist scenario of mass deportations coming out of Mexico City and elsewhere. The mayor of Tijuana (estimated population 1.5 million), for instance, recently said his administration stood ready to receive one million returnees. Bustamante's staff calculates the total number of Mexican illegals at not much over one million.

Bustamante concedes what many illegals themselves remark, that the new law is having a temporary, dissuasive effect, but insists that the main brake has been the nearly 15-fold rise in the peso cost of emigration since Mexico's financial crisis began in 1982.

Contrary to popular belief, he says, the Mexican recession is holding people in.

The Northern Border College estimates a 10 per cent fall off in crossings (as opposed to people, who may make multiple crossings) over the last three years. The U.S. Immigration and Naturalisation Service, by contrast, reports a record 1.8 million deportations in fiscal 1986, up from one million in 1984 and 1.3 million in 1985. But at the Tijuana-San Diego crossing the border patrol says (and Mexican immigration officials broadly confirm) the number of deportations dropped by half last month against April 1986, from 71,908 to 34,962. In addition, the radical new feature in Simpson-Rodino of sanctions against employers hiring illegals from June 1 is almost toothless. Employers are liable only if they knowingly hire *indocumentados*. In essence, the prospective employer is only obliged to demand papers that look authentic. One of the main net effects of the law will thus be the major boost it looks set to give the counterfeiting trade — which may prove a disincentive since it will raise the costs of illegal emigration beyond the reach of many Mexicans — Financial Times news feature.

Congressional probes highlight details of contra supply operation

WASHINGTON (R) — The congressional panel probing the Iran arms sale scandal has switched the spotlight onto the nuts and bolts of an operation to run guns to Nicaraguan right-wing contra rebels after Congress had blocked official U.S. aid.

A picture emerged at hearings this week of a freelance operation run by former military and intelligence personnel directed from the White House, plagued by ramshackle equipment and personal-indebts and overlaid by suspicions of financial skulduggery.

The committees of the Senate and House of Representatives jointly probing U.S. arms sales to Iran and the diversion of profits to the contras had already heard from witnesses who operated out of plush offices or hotels in a world of memoranda, dummy companies and Swiss bank accounts.

Now the attention has switched to some of those closer to the "sharp end" of the rebel supply line, exposed last October when one of its cargo planes operating out of Ilopango air base in El Salvador was shot down over Nicaragua.

Among those testifying were: Retired Air Force Colonel Robert Dutton, who used his 26 years of military experience, most of it spent in clandestine "special operations," to whip the airlift

into shape. Cuban-born ex-Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) operative Felix Rodriguez, who was part of the operation but did not like what he saw.

Former U.S. Ambassador to Costa Rica Lewis Tambs, who before taking up his post in July 1985 was told by White House aide Oliver North to organise a "southern" front in the contra war against Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

All said they accepted without question that North, a key Washington contact, was acting with full legal authority.

The marine lieutenant-colonel, who often had generals jumping to his orders, was fired from his White House post last November when it was revealed that some of the profits from the secret Iran arms sales had been siphoned off for the contras.

North is not expected to testify for several weeks. Dutton, hired to manage the airlift by retired air force Major General Richard Secord, said North assured him they were "working for the president of the United States."

Rodriguez, a veteran of the abortive 1961 U.S.-inspired Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba who used the alias Max Gomez and sported an intelligence Star for Valour in his lapel, said he had

serious misgivings about the operation and some of those involved.

He referred to reports of fat profits from some of the arms supplied to the contras, mentioning \$3 hand grenades that he said were sold for \$9.

One document introduced at the hearing listed airlift pilots, who Rodriguez said were paid between \$3,000 and \$4,000 a month, as getting as much as \$450 a day, apparently meeting a big profit for a Second-linked company.

Rodriguez said he was also unhappy that Secord and some of his assistants had once been associated with Edwin Wilson, a CIA renegade now serving a long jail term for helping to arm and train forces for Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

Former Ambassador Tambs, referred to by one congressman as a "rock em, sock em, nonsense type of person," told the inquiry how he negotiated an agreement with his host government to build an airstrip to service planes supplying rebels on the "southern" front.

The airfield, at Santa Elena, near Costa Rica's Pacific Coast, was closed last September because newly-elected President Oscar Arias felt it compromised his country's neutrality.

Randa Habib's Corner

Lively summer evenings and late-night shopping

LATE lively evenings when one could go shopping late at night are a very pleasant prospect but they must not be limited to the fringes of the Ramadan period only. Why not make it a regular feature of summer in Jordan?

Of course, the Amman Municipality did try the formula for some time with souks open until late in the evening in cordoned-off streets where merchants could display their wares and shoppers could pick their choice.

The idea was excellent, since people could shop freely without being bothered by cars and enjoy the coolness of the evening. The idea of open souks should be revived and extended to several areas of our city: near public gardens or in streets that can be blocked to traffic without posing major problems.

Also, why not have regular shops open in the evenings and late into the night? A shift system could be applied, under which shopping areas remain open some days late in the evening and close, say, from two to six p.m. Shopowners can work out the system themselves to their own convenience and to the best of their business.

I think that people will enjoy more shopping in the evenings as summer shopping can be very uncomfortable in hot days... also because it is unusual...

Furthermore, people who have to remain in their offices until six or seven in the evening will have the chance to shop.

And finally, everybody will find it more convenient to shop in the evening where parking facilities are more easily available than in the day.

Italian sex queen seeks parliament seat

By Alan Baldwin
Reuters

ROME — An aspiring parliamentary candidate is campaigning for Italy's June general election with the unlikely formula of removing all her clothes, baring her bosom or offering voters a bi-part in her next blue movie.

"Down with nuclear energy, up with sexual energy," is one of her favourite campaigning slogans.

Ilona Staller, better known to thousands of Italians as the country's leading hardcore sex queen, is standing for election as an official candidate of the small Radical Party, a maverick group with 11 representatives in the outgoing parliament.

Notorious throughout Italy under her nickname "Ciccio-lina", roughly translatable as "little fleshy one," the 37-year-old live sex show performer has attracted the kind of media interest conventional politicians can only dream of.

"I get 150 letters every day," she purrs to reporters. "I am the secret lover of millions of Italians. They have a right to vote for me as their member of parliament."

Maybe it's a coincidence, but the only opinion poll published since her high-profile campaign began put the radicals alongside the Socialists of former Prime Minister Bettino Craxi as the only parties to increase their support among voters.

Usually surrounded by hordes of press photographers urging her to bare her breasts, Staller tours the Rome constituency in which she is standing in a blaze of publicity that has delighted some Radical leaders as much as it has shocked other parties.

Each day, she takes her electioneering inside for a special show to encourage voters.

"First I did a strip-tease and took all my clothes off," she said of a recent performance. "Then I detailed my electoral programme to the audience... and they took it all in without losing their concentration for a minute."

Last week, to the consternation of many respectable Italian voters, she took to the road in the back of an open-roofed car driven

by a youth dressed as Jesus Christ. Her posters carry her name above a topless photograph.

"I would like to make a film of my electoral campaign," she told Reuters. "A normal film — sexy but normal — with everybody who voted for me able to take part."

As far as policies go, Staller adopts many of the Radical Party beliefs while stressing her own particular interests that led her to become involved in party politics.

"I am a red light green," she says firmly, adding that her political involvement complements her lifestyle and her shows, with her campaign directed against nuclear power and those who attack pornography.

"More pornography equals awareness, equals less repression, equals non-violence, equals radical," is one of her slogans.

Born in Budapest, the blonde, fair-skinned Staller said her father worked in the Hungarian Foreign Ministry and her mother was an obstetrician. "My family was bourgeois yet very sexually open," she told Reuters.

For the Radical Party, always the exhibitionists of Italian politics waging war against the establishment, Staller is something of a natural candidate.

In their last two electoral campaigns the party supported Toni Negri, then under preventive detention for armed insurrection against the state, and television personality Enzo Tortora who had been charged with mafia association and drug trafficking.

Tortora, who had spent a year in jail awaiting trial in 1983, was adopted by the radicals as part of a protest against Italian detention laws and later made party president. He was acquitted of the charges on appeal last summer.

Christian Democrat caretaker Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, whose political career stretches back over more than 40 years, was philosophical about the prospect of "Ciccio-lina" making an appearance in parliament.

She was perfectly entitled to sit in parliament if she was elected, he commented in a column for l'Europeo magazine, as long as she kept her clothes buttoned up.



Supporters of Juan Ponce Enrile, former defence minister and an opposition leader, climb the gate of a military camp in Manila demanding the resignation of President Corazon Aquino last week. They were later dispersed by police.

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Brazil's Senna wins Monaco Grand Prix

MONTE CARLO (Agencies) — Ayrton Senna of Brazil in a Lotus won the Monaco Grand Prix motor race Sunday.

For Senna, it was his first win at Monaco and the fifth of his career in his 50th Grand Prix. Mansell's Brazilian teammate Nelson Piquet was second after a controlled drive, finishing 33.212 seconds behind Senna.

Italian Michele Alboreto was third in a Ferrari with team mate Gerhard Berger of Austria fourth. Britain's Jonathan Palmer in a Tyrrell collected his first points of the season in fifth place ahead of Ivan Capelli of Italy in a March.

World champion Alain Prost of France was fourth in his McLaren when he retired with engine problems two laps from the finish.

Senna's victory boosted him to second place in the drivers' championship with 15 points, three

behind Prost. Senna took full advantage of the early retirement of British rival Nigel Mansell to race to a comfortable win.

Senna, took the lead on the 29th lap when Mansell, driving a Williams, dropped out with a broken turbo. Senna's winning time was one hour 57 minutes 54.085 seconds.

Mansell had resisted Senna's challenge from the front of the grid and built up a lead of 11 seconds when he slowed abruptly before pulling in to the pits.

Senna, guided his bright yellow Lotus-Honda to an easy triumph after Mansell's problems. Mansell had led from the start with Senna, in the front row, immediately falling in behind. Mansell

appeared to be on his way to the victory and was building his advantage to over 10 seconds.

Suddenly Mansell's Williams-Honda slowed and he had to drive into the pits. He quickly got out of his car, knowing the race was over for him.

"I think Mansell was pushing too hard at the beginning," Senna said. "Maybe he could have kept that pace but he didn't."

Senna took the lead in the 31st lap and had a 17-second lead over Piquet in his Williams-Honda. He gradually built it up to over 40 seconds in the final laps.

"I was trying to keep a good pace. In the last 15 laps I just pushed a little bit and when I saw everything was okay, I slowed a little," the 27-year-old Senna told the AP.

Senna moves into second place in the drivers' standings now with 15 points for the season after a second in San Marino. Prost remains in the lead with 18 points.

Finnish Alen takes early lead in Acropolis Rally with Lancia

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Finland's Markku Alen in a Lancia 4wd took an early lead Sunday in the 1,913-kilometre (1,195 miles) Acropolis Rally, winning the first special stage over dirt roads in southern Attica.

Alen racked up 3 minutes 40 second in penalty points over the 5.8-kilometre (3.6 miles) course near the village of Anavyssos in the first of 36 special stages that will effectively decide the contest, according to rally officials.

Alen's Lancia team-mate Juha Kankkunen, last year's winner who is also from Finland, placed second in 3:43.

Sweden's Kenneth Ericsson (Volvo 900 GLE) came third in 3:44, followed by Finland's Hannu Mikkola (Audi 200 Quattro), Italy's Miki Biasion (Lancia Delta 4wd) and Argentine

na's Jorge Recalde (Audi Coupe Quattro), all on 3:45.

A total of 94 starters sped away from the ancient Acropolis hill in Central Athens Sunday morning. They were expected to regroup overnight for Monday's 363-kilometre (226 miles) run through central Greece, including six special stages.

Kankkunen, currently ahead in the world rally championship standings, is favoured for a second Acropolis title, but may be strongly challenged by Mikkola and Alen.

Mikkola, 45, a former world champion, is contesting a record 100th world-class rally in the four-day Acropolis competition, an event he has never won. Alen has finished second and third in the Acropolis Rally on five occasions.

British soccer veteran blacklisted

LONDON (AP) — Legendary former England soccer star Sir Stanley Matthews is on a sports anti-apartheid blacklist because of his links with South Africa, a British press report said Sunday.

According to the news on Sunday, Matthews' name appears on a list compiled by the United Nations and Sanoc (the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee) of some 2,600 sportsmen and women from 51 countries who allegedly have had connections with South Africa.

Now in his 70s, Matthews, who was knighted for his contribution to British soccer, played and coached in South Africa after his career ended in England.

According to the report, he recently tried to organise an international soccer tournament in South Africa, which is banned from international sport over its

policy of a racial separation, known as apartheid.

The paper's report said the list showed Britain had the most names on the list — 782 — compared with second placed United States with 584 and third, West Germany, with 178.

Tennis is the sport with the most names with 355 players on the list, followed by rugby union (332), golf (246) and cricket (226).

Young Tyson crushes Thomas to retain heavyweight crown

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (Agencies) — Mike Tyson proved himself the world's outstanding heavyweight on Saturday night with a performance as mean and brutal as it was stylish.

The fearless 20-year-old with the strength of a bull pounded fellow-American Pinklon Thomas into sixth-round submission to retain his World Boxing Council (WBC) and World Boxing Association (WBA) titles in emphatic style.

It was just the awesome display of destruction unbeaten Tyson needed following his tiresome points victory over compatriot James "Bonecrusher" Smith which earned him the WBA crown last March.

Ferocious hooks and scything uppercuts had Thomas under pressure from the opening bell. Then, with the challenger reeling around the ring incapable of defending himself midway through the sixth round, Tyson went for the kill like a frenzied shark scenting blood.

He unleashed a blistering salvo

of 18 head and body shots which finally put the WBC's top contender on the floor for the first time in his nine-year, 32-fight career.

Dazed and bewildered, Thomas clearly was unable to return to his feet. But before referee Carlos Padilla could count him out, Thomas' trainer Angelo Dundee intervened and the fight was officially stopped two minutes into the round.

After the fifth round of his double heavyweight title defense Tyson kept telling his trainer, Kevin Rooney, "One more round. One more round."

In the sixth round, Pinklon Thomas got the message, going down before a barrage of Tyson punches that ended the fight with a minute left in the round.

"I knew he was getting tired," the 20-year-old Tyson said. "I went strong to the body and head. I knew he was hurt. I saw his condition. I just put everything together."

He certainly did as he retained the WBC and WBA titles and remained unbeaten.

A right uppercut turned Thomas' legs to rubber, then a left hook sent the 29-year-old reeling. Tyson was all over him like a jungle cat, raining lefts and rights. Thomas finally fell flat on his back after a blasting left hook.

Referee Carlos Padilla was about to count 10 when Thomas' trainer jumped into the ring. Padilla halted the fight.

Thomas would not have beaten the 10-count.

"I beat the best fighter in the world tonight," Tyson said in handing himself a compliment after his 30th victory and 27th knockout. He now will fight for the undisputed heavyweight title outdoors at the Las Vegas Hilton Aug. 1 against Tony Tucker.

In an earlier fight, Tucker won the vacant IBF title by stopping James "Buster" Douglas at 1:36 of the 10th round of a scheduled 15-rounder.

Tyson came out for the first round of the scheduled 12-round bout with an eye on finishing it, scoring with both hands to his head, especially with his left hook. Thomas tried to keep Tyson off with a left jab but was unable to.

Through the next four rounds, the bout was marred by a lot of clinching, holding and mauling.

Although Thomas never appeared on the verge of going down in the first five rounds, he was marked under the right eye and cut under and over the left eye. The cut over the eye was caused by a head butt in the third round.

In the rest period between the fifth and sixth round, Dundee signalled that the attached thumb on Thomas' left glove had come loose. The glove was replaced, making the minute-rest period a total of 2:38.

The rest did not help Thomas get through the sixth round. About midway through the sixth, while the two men were fighting in close, Tyson cut loose with a tremendous right uppercut. A moment later, he landed a crushing left and Thomas reeled backward.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Anderlecht retains Belgian title

BRUSSELS (R) — Enzo Scifo, who will play for Internazionale Milan next season, was among the scorers as Anderlecht has overrun struggling Berchem 5-0 to win the Belgian League title for the third year in a row. Mechelen, who had been level with Anderlecht with 55 points from 33 games, 12 points ahead of the next team, lost their chance of the title when they were beaten 3-1 by Club Brugge. Anderlecht, Belgium's richest and most prestigious team, secured their 20th league title with an emphatic win at Berchem, never looking back after Australian signing EDI Krnojevic and Scifo put them two up in the first seven minutes.

Australian wins New York Marathon

NEW YORK (R) — Australia's Lisa Martin has easily won the women's 10k race of New York in 32 minutes 49 seconds, her third win at the distance this year. Martin, 27, the Commonwealth games marathon champion, beat out a field of 8,225 in 32 degree (C) temperatures. American Lynn Nelson, 25, was 19 seconds behind to finish second in her first running of this 16th annual event. Nelson stayed close to Martin until the halfway mark when event. Nelson broke away for good. Portugal's Aurora Cunha, the Australian third here last year, finished third again in 33:11, the same time as fourth place Nancy Tinari of Canada. Pre-race favourite Ingrid Kristiansen of Norway, the world record holder at 5,000 metres, 10,000 metres and in the marathon, finished fifth in 33:23. Martin, who broke the world record for 10 miles (16km) in Washington last month, had won previously at the 10k distance this year in Boston and Mobile, Alabama.

1984 Olympic gold medalist upset

SAN JOSE, California (R) — Tonie Campbell has upset fellow-American Roger Kingdom, the 1984 Olympic gold medalist in the 110-metre high hurdles, at the Bruce Jenner track and field classic. Campbell surged twice, the last time over the ninth hurdle, to win with a time of 13.34 seconds. Clemis Clark finished second in 13.42 and Kingdom was third in 13.44. Three American women ran the fastest times this season in their events. Mary Knisley won the 3,000 metres in 8:49.49. Judy Brown-King claimed the 400 metre-intermediate hurdles in 54.85 and Delisa Walton-Floyd won the 800 metre in 1:59.80.

American breaks water ski jump record

HOUSTON (AP) — American Deena Brush set a new world's record of 151 feet (46 metres) in the long distance jump competition during a tournament at the Terra Mare waterski facility on Saturday. Brush, 27, jumped behind a Yamaha-powered Mastercraft, breaking the old record by one foot (1.3 m) during the professional waterski tour. "I've been working all year for the record and today's jump is a dream come true," Brush said. She also is the co-world record holder in the woman's slalom.

U.S. soccer team defeats Canadians

FENTON, Missouri (AP) — Midfielder Jim Gabarra beat goalkeeper Steve Habermann from the top of the box, advancing the United States to second-round Olympic qualifying with a 3-0 soccer victory Saturday over Canada. Gabarra's goal with 17:20 remaining in the second half enabled the United States to win the two-game series by 3-2 in total goals. Canada won the first game 2-0 on May 23 at St. John, New Brunswick. The United States, while moving to a round-robin of six teams consisting of Mexico and four other entrants to be determined, outshot Canada by 11-4, drawing its first two goals from Paul Krumpal.

Sanchez scores hat-trick as Real advances

MADRID (R) — A first-half hat-trick by Mexican world cup striker Hugo Sanchez helped Real Madrid to a 4-0 victory over Sporting Gijon Saturday night and extended Real's Spanish League lead over chief rivals Barcelona to four points. Barcelona has the chance to cut Real's advantage in half when they meet Mallorca away in the championship playoffs on Sunday night. Sanchez, who took his tally for the season to 33, stunned Sporting by scoring only 25 seconds into the game after running onto a pass from midfield stalwart Rafael Gordillo. His second, a header, followed a few minutes later. The Mexican rounded off his hat-trick 10 minutes before the interval when a volley by fellow striker Emilio Butragueno struck the post and rebounded straight to him. Midfielder Rafael Martin Vazquez completed the rout 15 minutes into the second half when he netted from close range a cross by Michel. The defeat leaves Sporting languishing at the foot of the top playoff group.

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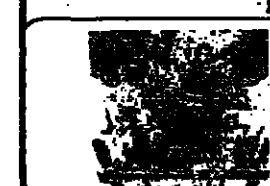


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By Fouad Batshan

traded between (375-363) L.L./JD. The Syrian lira traded between (59-85) S.L./JD and the Kuwaiti dinar traded between JD 1.220 to JD 1.225.

The Egyptian pound traded between 1.165 to 1.170 fils and the Iraqi dinar between 26.0 - 25.0 fils.

Metals traded lower due to the stronger dollar. Gold dropped from a high of \$475 an ounce to a low of \$445 an ounce. Silver dropped from a high of \$9.50 an ounce to \$7.20 an ounce.

Charts indicate that gold is consolidating around the levels of (\$450 - \$460) an ounce for the time being before pushing to a high of \$500 an ounce. Silver could push to a high of \$10 an ounce at the same period.

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